

RWDSU
CIO

record

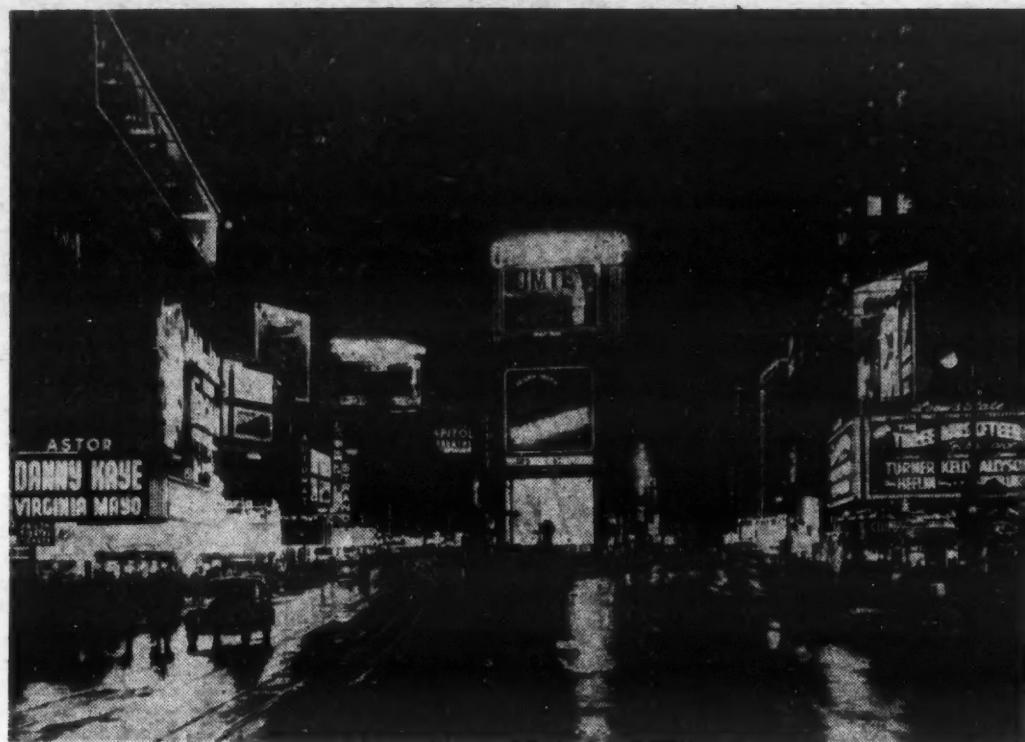
Vol. 2, No. 22 • Nov. 27, 1955



welcome afl-cio

More than
2,000 signs reading
"Welcome AFL-CIO"
will appear in store windows
in midtown Manhattan this week
as delegates representing 16 million
organized workers arrive in New York City to
attend the first convention of the united labor
organization. The store signs, whose elements are
reproduced on this page, express the "welcome" ex-
tended by 70,000 RWDSU members in the city to the
founding convention of AFL-CIO. In offering this
welcome, the officers and members of RWDSU
throughout the U. S. and Canada are also express-
ing their hopes for the AFL-CIO's future success
and their determination to do everything
in their power to insure that success.
Articles throughout this issue
of The Record spell out
both the hope and the de-
termination.

AFL-CIO Convention Issue



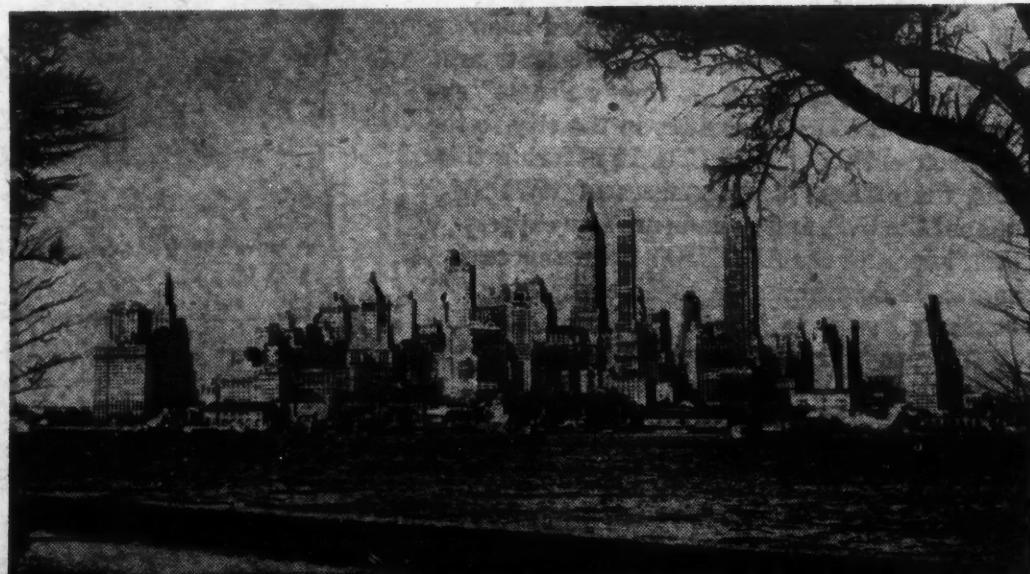
New York, a Union Town, Greets the AFL-CIO!

The City of New York—a Union town—extends the hand of welcome to the great new united labor movement of the United States and Canada!

Eight million New Yorkers are proud and honored to be hosts to the historic merger Convention of the AFL and CIO, opening Monday, Dec. 5 at the 71st Regiment Armory in Manhattan. New Yorkers greet with open heart and warm brotherhood the thousands of unionists arriving this week to cement the unity of 16 million American trade unionists.

With 70,000 members in the Metropolitan New York area, the Retail Wholesale & Department Store Union takes particular pride in welcoming the AFL-CIO to New York. The RWDSU, only recently doubled in size and infinitely strengthened through a series of mergers, is acutely aware of the value of labor unity. Unity is the bedrock upon which labor grows and thrives, and the unity of AFL and CIO holds out hope for great new strides by the working people of America and the nation itself.

It is with a sense of history-in-the-making, therefore, that the people of New York and its million union members say "Welcome AFL-CIO!"



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RWDSU RECORD

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rwdsu RECORD

Large Majority Signed in Levittown, Pa.

Election Dec. 3 at Pomeroy Store

LEVITTOWN, Pa.—The 250 employees of Pomeroy's department store will have the opportunity on Saturday, Dec. 3, to vote for the RWDSU-CIO in a National Labor Relations Board secret-ballot election. Following the expected overwhelming victory for RWDSU, negotiations will open with the company to raise the low wages now being paid at Pomeroy's, reduce the 48-hour work week, and improve other poor conditions.

A demonstration of the complete confidence which the RWDSU has in the desire of Pomeroy employees to have the union in their store was given at a hearing at the NLRB Nov. 16 to discuss the election. At this hearing, RWDSU Exec. Vice-Pres. Sam Kovenetsky agreed to accept any proposal made by the company as to which employees would be eligible to vote in the election.

He did this, Kovenetsky declared, "because the union is interested above all in a speedy election, so that we can quickly get collective bargaining under way, and because we have no doubt that the Pomeroy employees want the union and will vote for it, no matter which units of the store are designated as eligible to vote."

The organizing campaign at the store, which was opened about seven months ago in the huge Levittown shopping center, is led by Int'l Rep. Morris Malmignati, with aid from Int'l Reps. Anthony Gentile, Daniel H. Klein and Frank Meloni. In a matter of weeks a substantial group of the employees signed up in RWDSU, and a corps of enthusiastic rank and file organizers was soon developed inside the store.

It was this group, guided by the union representatives, which was most responsible for building the



Malmignati

organization to its present status, which finds well over a majority of the Pomeroy employees signed up in RWDSU. The store is part of the huge chain of Allied Stores, one of whose largest operations, Stern Bros. in New York, is under contract with the RWDSU.

The company sought to stall the coming election by insisting before the labor board examiner that the store's beauty parlor, which is run by a concessionaire, be included in the election. In order that nothing be put in the way of a speedy election, the union did not object. However, the beauty shop concessionaire did object, and it was decided to omit the beauty shop from the election.

Meanwhile, the organizing committee inside the store, consisting of about a dozen employees, continues to promote the union among those employees who have not yet signed up. The campaign is still very much under way, with the aim of signing up practically all of the employees before the election Dec. 3. Regular committee meetings are held every week and there are frequent leaflet distributions at the store.

Key issues before the Pomeroy employees are wages, hours and job security. Before the union began the drive to organize the store, wages of 75 to 90 cents an hour were paid for a work week which often ran to 60 hours. Refusal to work these hours meant summary firing. Since the Pomeroy employees started to organize in the RWDSU, management has made some concessions in a clear attempt to woo the workers away from the union.

The work is now 48 hours and time and a half is paid for overtime. A small raise has been handed out to most employees, and rates now are around 85 cents to \$1 an hour, far below the earnings of the many thousands of RWDSU members in department stores across the country.

Breakthru at A&S and Stern's Great Neck

'65' Dept. Store Drive Scoring

NEW YORK CITY—Two dramatic developments in the past week highlighted the campaign of RWDSU District 65 to organize non-union department stores of New York.

• At the huge Abraham & Straus store in Brooklyn, where upwards of 3,000 employees work, General Organizers Nicholas Carnes and Frank Brown, in charge of the campaign, report "a tremendous increase" in the rate of organization, with particular successes scored at the two A&S warehouses on John St. and Jay St., where old-timers with up to 25 years service are joining the union. Organization at the A & S warehouses has reached the point where the warehousemen are now discussing at union meetings a proposal to contact management and secure a collective bargaining agreement.

• At the branch store of Stern Bros. in Great Neck, L. I., organization is now at the stage where '65' Pres. David Livingston has requested an appointment with Stern's management to discuss a contract for a unit of the store which has been organized. Throughout the Great Neck branch, meanwhile, the drive has been stepped up to complete organization of the entire store.

News of the widespread successes scored at the warehouse have had an electrifying effect in the main Brooklyn store among non-selling and sales personnel alike. "Everyone's talking union," is the report from all sections of the store, and the result has been a sharp increase in the rate of union application cards signed.

Throughout the store employees are talking about Mike Godoy, head of stock in the stationery department, and the article about him which appeared in the '65 section of The Re-

cord last issue. Mike told The Record why he joined the union, and why everyone at A & S should join up and win important gains in wages and conditions through having a '65' union contract.

From all parts of the huge store, following distribution of The Record at A & S, employees came to Mike to congratulate him for his guts in speaking out, and to pledge, "we're with you in organizing the store."

The important breakthrough in the A & S warehouse came about through clarification of a confusing point which hampered organization. The A & S store is part of the Federated Stores chain, which maintains a Profit-sharing and pension plan. Many of the workers, including those with long seniority, feared that they would lose their benefit rights under the Federated plan if they joined the union. It was explained, however, that Bloomingdale department store, under contract with District 65, is also a Federated store, and here benefits under the Federated plan have been guaranteed in the contract. When it was made clear, in fact, that these benefits could best be guaranteed—and extended—through a union contract, the old timers began joining up in large numbers.

'65' Organization Director Bill Michelson credited the rank and file of District 65, and particularly the department store members of Namm-Loesers, Gimbel's, Saks-34th, Bloomingdale and Sterns, for "a fine job" in home visiting of employees at A & S and other stores now being organized.

"There has been a remarkable increase in the number of members turning out every night of the week to take assignments and visit these unorganized workers at their homes, to tell them about our union," Michelson said. "Not only store workers, but members from the garment market and other sections of the union are turning out in growing numbers. They are contributing invaluable to the success of our organizing drive."

A meeting of the Stern Bros. 42nd St. membership Tuesday night cheered and applauded a member from the Great Neck store, Mark Seaman, who addressed the meeting, and the big turnout pledged to respond at once if management discriminated in any way against the Great Neck people for joining the union.



NICHOLAS CARNES

Locals Maintain Organizing Pace

LANSING, MICH.—

ELECTION SET at Alden's Dept. Store, Lansing, Mich. NLRB orders vote to be held by Dec. 7 for 65 employees. See story on Page 6.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.—

FIRST CONTRACT signed with newly-organized Interstate Bakeries, Birmingham, Ala. provides wage increases of 30 to 45 cents an hour. See story on Page 8.

BOSTON, MASS.—

ORGANIZING DRIVE begins at Raymond's Department Store, Boston, Mass. RWDSU New England Joint Board gets good response among 350 employees as new campaign gets under way. See story on Page 5.

GROVELAND, FLA.—

NLRB ELECTION is set for Dec. 15 for 450 employees of B & W citrus canning plant in Groveland, Fla., as Local 43 organizing drive continues at another cannery, J. William Horsey Corp. in Plant City. See story on Page 8.

NEW YORK CITY—

NEWLY-ORGANIZED firm, Ebert & Co., makers of watch bracelets, signs first contract with Local 147. Workers win 20 to 25 cents in wage boosts, many other gains. See story on Page 5.

NOVA SCOTIA, CAN.—

Cape Breton Island is scene of organizing drive that has brought in 400 new members in past six months. For story of how workers are organized in eastern-most part of North America, see Page 7.

LABOR NEWS ROUNDUP

Labor Scores Key Victories; Democratic Trend Continues

WASHINGTON (PAI)—Organized labor won many key victories and suffered one major defeat as the off-year elections showed a continuation of the trend indicated in 1953 and 1954 toward the Democrats. Sweeping gains were recorded by Democrats in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York and usually Republican Indiana. Victories were also made in New Jersey.

Possibly the most unexpected Democratic win was in Indiana which saw many labor-endorsed candidates win mayoralty races in both large and small towns. Democrats captured 73 city hall posts. They have never controlled more than 56 before. The farm issue figured prominently in these races.

The bitterest labor defeat was in Ohio where, in a state-wide referendum, the voters cast their ballots against "humanizing" unemployment compensation. The proposal had been backed by all branches of Ohio labor. Local unionists laid the defeat to the power of business and the one-party press. The CIO-backed jobless proposal lost by more than 500,000 votes.

Landslide Victory in Philadelphia

The victory of Labor-backed Richard Dilworth, Democratic candidate for mayor of Philadelphia, was expected but not by such a landslide. He swamped 35-year old advertising executive W. Thatcher Longstreet, whom President Eisenhower had called "my candidate," by 130,000 votes.

In Kentucky A. B. (Happy) Chandler, endorsed by the Kentucky AFL, also won the gubernatorial race in a far greater sweep than predicted. Riding to victory with him was Thelma Stowall, a long-time official of the AFL Tobacco Workers. Known as "Madam Labor" in the Bluegrass state, she was elected secretary of state.

Leaders of both political parties made conflicting claims as to the meaning of the vote. Republican National Chairman Leonard Hall said there was no national significance since the issues were local. Democratic National Chairman Paul Butler said the three year trend toward the Democrats was getting stronger.

Concensus of newspaper opinion was that the trend toward the Democrats continues but the strength of the trend was a matter of conjecture. Indiana was pointed out as indicating general farm dissatisfaction with Administration farm policies.

Following is a rundown on other races:

CALIFORNIA—A referendum calling for a five-day week in San Francisco for city employees was defeated . . . Labor-backed George R. Reilly lost the mayoralty to George Christopher. It was a non-partisan race but Christopher is a registered Republican while Reilly is a Democrat.

CONNECTICUT—Democrats won control of two cities—Waterbury and Norwalk—and strengthened position in 13 others . . . AFL Machinist Joe Cronin elected mayor of Hartford.

MASSACHUSETTS—In Boston Mayor John B. Hynes, Democrat, won an unprecedented third term in a non-partisan election . . . two incumbent Democratic mayors re-elected and one defeated.

NEW JERSEY—Democrats won three seats in the Senate, all by labor-backed candidates . . . no change in assembly . . . Charles D. Kovax, United Steelworkers, elected freeholder in Mercer County . . . John Hutmick, CIO Electrical Workers, elected to municipal office in Middlesex.

PENNSYLVANIA—Dilworth's victory in Philadelphia swept in entire Democratic ticket except one aldermanic post . . . Labor-supported candidates sweep city council elections . . . Democrats score greatest victory in 52 years in fashionable Bucks County due to influx of United Steelworkers . . . Five striking Westinghouse workers, members of IUE, elected to posts in Sharon, including mayor . . . net gain of five city hall posts for Democrats.

NEW YORK—Democrats made a net gain of one seat in mayoralty races, however won new victories in eight cities including Troy, Schenectady, Auburn and Ithaca.

MICHIGAN—Labor-backed John J. Dingell, Jr., won the Democratic nomination for Congress to fill post left vacant by death of his father. Won out over 11 candidates. Opponent in special election next month will be Republican Thomas E. Brennan who won over a field of eight.

UTAH—Labor-supported incumbent Mayor Earl Glade was defeated by Republican Adiel F. Steward. Glade was bidding for fourth term.

what's new in our industry

Senator Herbert Lehman (D., N.Y.) expressed deep concern over growing influx of Japanese textiles, citing increase in cotton blouse shipments from 120,000 a year in 1954 to 25 million this year. Domestic blouse manufacturers will file an application with the Tariff Commission to relieve this situation. . . One reason for this influx of cheap Japanese textiles on the world market, offered by Gordon Walker, chief of Far East news for the Christian Science Monitor, is fact that Japanese textile workers are among the lowest paid in the world, and Japanese Textile Workers Union is weak and ineffective.

Revlon's net profit for the first eight months of this year nearly equaled that for all of 1954. . . An increase of at least 10 percent in retail store sales in Toronto for Christmas was forecast by Associated Stores of Canada. . . Nat'l Shoe Mfrs. Assn. estimated shoe production this year will exceed 500 million pairs, a new record. . . Macy's New York,

in order to meet demands for Christmas season, hiring unemployed show people as "extras". . . U.S. shoe manufacturers expanding by buying controlling interest in Canadian concerns. . . The average sum per family spent on toys will hit a new high of \$28 this Yule-tide, says Toy Manufacturers of U.S.A. . . Gimbel's New York now has a physician on duty full time in store for employees who may require medical attention during working hours.

Improved parking facilities, regularly scheduled merchandise promotions, combined fashion shows and more effective advertising are "formula" to get more shoppers downtown by department store owners in San Mateo, California. . . Lane Bryant's Philadelphia, celebrates its 30th anniversary this month. . . A new branch store for area containing 150,000 consumers will be opened by Namm-Loeser's in Bay Shore, Long Island. . . October sales of apparel rose to \$969 million from \$911 million in Oct.



Union Organizing Picks Up Prior to AFL-CIO Merger

WASHINGTON—Union organizing drives are getting underway before the merger of the AFL & CIO is consummated, according to statistics released by the National Labor Relations Board.

The NLRB reports that petitions for representation elections during July, August and September were 23 percent over the corresponding period a year ago.

The elections brought 79,971 new members into the labor movement. AFL unions participated in 828 elections and won a majority in 480. CIO unions were involved in 404 elections and won 202. Independent unions participated in 134 elections and won 85.

19,000 Shoe Workers Walk Out in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS—AFL and CIO Shoe Unions, working closely together, have struck the International Shoe Company in 38 plants in four states, involving 19,000 employees.

International Shoe is the nation's largest shoe manufacturer operating plants in Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas and Kentucky.

The strike, which followed union rejection of a last minute company offer, was announced jointly by Dave Wilson, regional director of the CIO United Shoe Workers, and Ben Berk, director of the AFL Boot and Shoe Workers.

Authorization for the strike came at a joint meeting of delegates from the 38 locals of the two unions.

Russell Taylor, president of the CIO union, said the unions' demands include a 12 per cent wage increase, spread over a two-year contract. He said the company had offered a 10 percent raise over three years. The wage scale for production workers involved averages \$1.22 an hour.

CIO Turns Over \$187,000 For Flood Relief Services

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A check for \$187,721.16, gift of the CIO through its Community Services Committee, was presented by Joseph A. Beirne, committee chairman and president of the Communications Workers, to the American Red Cross for its "exceptionally fine work in the recent flood disasters."

The check represented contributions from members and affiliated unions of the CIO. In presenting it to Ellsworth Bunker, Red Cross president, Beirne assured him that "this is not the end of contributions from membership and organizations of the CIO. As more money comes in—and we fully expect it will—we will forward it to you."

Union Leaders Celebrate Debs' Birth Centennial

TERRE HAUTE, Ind.—Presidents of two of the nation's major railroad unions were on hand as the Eugene Victor Debs Lodge of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen celebrated the centennial of Debs' birth here in his home town.

Debs, famed railroad union leader and five times a candidate for President on the Socialist Party ticket, was hailed as one of the early advocates of labor unity by W. P. Kennedy, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

H. E. Gilbert, president of the Locomotive Firemen and Engineers and Frank Zeidler, labor-supported mayor of Milwaukee, also participated in the ceremonies.

"The idealistic dream of Gene Debs for labor unity 65 years ago is now coming into reality," said Kennedy. "It is our aim to carry on as he would have us in furthering unity among our labor organizations. That the strike will be remanded to the relief of the past. That an era of peace and good-will will dawn."

1954, Office of Business Economics in Washington said . . . Gamble Skogmo Inc. reports an increase of 9.5 per cent in sales for first 10 months of 1955. . . Namm-Loeser's is conducting a \$6,400 cash prize contest for contestants who best describe why they appreciate the store. . . Macy's New York posted higher sales and increased earnings for first fiscal quarter as compared with the similar period in 1954. . . Retail sales in the month of October dropped 1 percent below the September level according to the Department of Commerce in Washington.

W. T. Grant Co. opened its new \$2 million store featuring expanded fashions, dry goods, home furnishings and appliances in St. Paul, Minn. . . Sears, Roebuck officials announced the opening of a multi-million dollar unit in the Southgate shopping center in Cleveland. . . Bond Stores opened a 19,000 square foot unit in Dallas, Texas. . . 70,000 attended the opening of the new \$5 million Simpson-Sears store in Ottawa,

Canada. . . A merchandising distribution building will be built by Lerner Shops in Los Angeles, California, also a new unit has been set up in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Container Corp. of America will build a new box-board mill in Santa Clara, Calif., and a folding carton plant at Seattle. The cost will be more than \$7 million. . . Nat'l Automatic Merchandising Assn. forecasts a sharp growth in vending machine operations in supplying food for on-the-spot eating and take-home preparations. . . Wholesale prices for instant coffee have been cut considerably. . . Atomic energy is expected to help boost food supplies by distilling salt water for irrigation in farm areas as suggested by National Security and Research Corp. . . Nat'l Assn. of Food Chains disclosed that there is a major trend in the food retailing business towards bigness by consolidation to remove pressure of competition.

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**No Offer As Yet
From R. H. White
Store in Boston**

BOSTON, Mass.—Local 295 of the New England Joint Board of RWDSU opened contract negotiations with the 650-worker R. H. White department store in September, and in the two conferences since then management has not made any offer in answer to the employees' demands, claiming that top company officials are "still studying" them.

Joint Board Pres. Joseph Honan, who is leading the negotiations, said the company would be expected to make an offer at the next conference, due before this month is out.

High on the list of demands is contract coverage for the employees of a branch store in Worcester, which has been in existence for about a year and a half, and another store now being built in Saugus. Other demands are for wage boosts of \$5 a week and adjustments in certain job classifications.

The negotiating committee includes Business Rep. Katherine Lloyd, '295' Pres. Mary Donahue, Vice-Pres. Thomas Egan, Recording Sec. Margaret Conroy, Sec.-Treas. Edith Egan, and executive board members Margaret Hutchinson, Lillian Smith, Mary Kenney, Walter Billings, Mary Devine, Mary Samaleria and Eleanor Manetti.

Drive on at Raymond's

Meanwhile, the Joint Board has a campaign underway to organize the Raymond department store in this city. The store employs about 350 people, some of whom approached the union with a request for organization. Since the drive's beginning early in October, Honan said, a substantial number of the employees have signed up.

The campaign is led by Business Rep. Irving Rich, with other Joint Board Reps. Katherine Lloyd, Hugh McCaffrey and Curtis Hayford.

Elsewhere in Boston, a set of contract demands was submitted to management of Robert Hall Clothes on Nov. 9 at a preliminary negotiating conference. Talks are scheduled to resume in the last week of this month, Honan said.

**Watch Bracelet Firm
Organized by '147'**

NEW YORK CITY—Complete organization of Ebert & Co., including a signed and sealed contract, was reported by Theodor Bowman, manager of Watch & Jewelry Workers Local 147, earlier this month. The firm has been a '147' target for the past several years, Bowman said. It produces watch bracelets and employs about 40 people. The organization victory follows signing of a contract with J & B Watch Band Co. last month, bringing 450 new members into Local 147.

The new Ebert & Co. contract provides wage increases of 20 and 25 cents an hour within a year for many of the employees. These increases are based on newly established job classification rates.

The employees receive 5 cents now, 5 cents in February and an additional 5 cents every 3 months until the top of the classification is reached. Minimum rate in the shop is now \$1.10 an hour, with higher scales for the more skilled classifications.

Other newly won conditions are 7½ paid holidays; vacations of 3 days after 6 months' service, with an added day and a half up to 2 weeks after 3 years' service; seniority provisions; and a grievance procedure. Coverage under the Local 147 Welfare Plan becomes effective on the first anniversary date of the contract in November, 1956.

The negotiations were conducted by a committee headed by Manager Bowman and including Shop Chairman Albert Llabres and Steward Werner Bucher. Organization of the shop was led by '147' Business Rep. Caesar Massa, Int'l Rep. Fred Lifavi and Organizer Ivan Hernandez.

New York & Northeast

Contract Talks After Christmas For 8000 at R. H. Macy's Stores

NEW YORK CITY—Soon after Christmas Local 1-S, representing 8,000 employees of R. H. Macy, world's largest department store, will open contract negotiations with Macy management for the main store on Herald Square and four branches in the metropolitan area, it was announced by '1-S' Pres. Sam Kovenetsky, who is also executive vice-president of the RWDSU. The Macy contract with Local 1-S expires Feb. 1, 1956.

The employees' major demands, which have already been put before the management, include substantial wage increases, reduction in hours from the present 40 per week, increased pension benefits and improvements in the health plan to provide doctor care at home and in the doctor's office. The Local 1-S members enthusiastically ratified these demands at a meeting which jammed the main hall of Manhattan Center last month.

Meanwhile, RWDSU department store locals in New York have been urged by Kovenetsky to come together for discussions on joint action in contract negotiations and other activities. Kovenetsky said, "We believe that all department store workers have a stake in the success of our coming negotiations. As in the past, we will do our best for the good of all."

In other developments in the local, Kovenetsky reported that members of Local 1-S accounted for the second largest contribution in the city to the Greater New York Fund. This year, in a joint campaign with management, more than \$29,400 was raised.

With the aid of a professional social service counsellor, Local 1-S members themselves may use any of the Fund's 425 agencies in time of need, as well as providing funds to aid others.

The March of Dimes and the New York City Cancer Society are also beneficiaries of Local 1-S' efforts to make life healthier, happier and more secure for its members and the community at large.

Back Pay to February for 100 At Coca-Cola Springfield Plant

SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—Nearly 100 workers at the Coca-Cola bottling and distributing plant here have received back pay to February of this year as the result of an agreement between Local 566 and the company on wage increases and other improvements in the contract, New England Joint Board Pres. Joseph Honan reported.

The delay in putting the new terms into effect was due to a failure of the parties to agree on certain contract changes, Honan said.

The wage boosts provided 5 cents an hour for the driver-salesmen plus added commissions of 8 cents on a new type of bottle case and 1 cent on every sale of a new type bottle. Hourly rated employees won increases of 6 cents an hour if they

earned more than \$1.50 and 8 cents if they earned less.

In addition to a number of improvements in general working conditions, the company agreed to a new sick leave policy which provides benefits up to \$50 a week for 13 weeks.

The negotiations were led for the union by Honan and NEJB Business Rep. Joseph Casey, with a committee including John Anable and Greg Michaud.

10½c Hourly Raise Won At Plasteron in Buffalo

BUFFALO, N. Y.—A new agreement with Plasteron Wallboard Co., calling for wage boosts of 10½ cents an hour, has brought total wage improvements since last May to 17½ cents an hour. Int'l. Rep. Tom Evans reported. The improved contract will be in force until April 30, 1957.

Evans led the negotiations, with a committee including Local 1231 Pres. Ed Reiss, Sec.-Treas. Robert Brown and Trustee Robert Ferguson.

Local 338 Reports Membership, Contract Gains

Retail Food Clerks Win \$5 for Two Years

NEW YORK CITY—A pattern of wage boosts of \$3 for the first year and \$2 for the second year is being established in contract renewals by Retail Food Employees Local 338 throughout the city, it was reported by '338' Pres. Julius Sum. Coupled with the contract gains were reports of an overall gain of several hundred members by the 5000-member local during the past year.

A series of borough membership meetings, as reported in the union's monthly publication, "338 News," enthusiastically approved the contract settlements and reports of organizing gains. The breakthrough on 1955-'56 negotiations came first in Brooklyn, where 95 percent of the union's contracts were renewed in a single day by rank-and-file section chairmen and secretaries, under the leadership of Bus. Agent Al Tribush and Organizer Sam Cohen.

This was followed by similar successes in the Bronx, Long Island and the Food Service Division of '338', in drives headed up by Bus. Agents Sam Karsch, Leo Holtzer, Harry Stern, Harry Rapaport and Org. Murray Fischer.

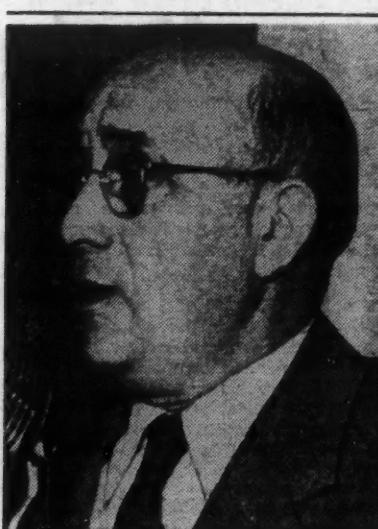
The organizing gains were scored principally in Brooklyn and Long Island. In the latter area, new members have been

recruited into both the Long Island Division, covering employees in retail food stores, and the Food Service Division, covering luncheonette employees.

Sum reported that in addition to the \$5 wage package, the new contracts boost the minimum wage for deliverymen to \$50 a week, \$60 for clerks and \$90 for managers.

Sum also reported that the union's total assets in its general, welfare and retirement funds is nearing the three million dollar mark.

Local 338's annual dance and entertainment will be held this year on Dec. 18 at Manhattan Center. As in previous years, the union has contracted for both large ballrooms at the Center in order to accommodate the expected crowd of 8,000. A gala evening of entertainment and dancing is planned, with top-notch stars of stage, screen and television appearing in person.



JULIUS SUM
President, Local 338

- RWDSU Victory Seen in Lansing Store Vote

LANSING, Mich.—The National Labor Relations Board has ordered a representation election to be held before Dec. 7 for employees of Alden's Dept. Store in this city, it was reported by Int'l Rep. John Kirkwood. As this issue of The Record went to press, the exact date had not yet been fixed for voting by the 65 store employees, who will choose from among RWDSU, an AFL union and "no union."

The AFL union, which had intervened after the RWDSU filed a petition last summer for an election, was turned down by the NLRB on its demand that supervisory employees be included in the unit; Kirkwood said. The three contested classifications ruled on by the NLRB included payroll clerks, who will vote; floor managers, who are excluded; and contingent part-timers, who will be permitted to vote under challenge.

Delay Costly

Kirkwood pointed out that the delay has "deprived Alden employees of three months of benefits under an RWDSU contract," and also noted that a number of new employees had been hired by the firm since the union filed for an election. These new employees will also be eligible to vote if their names appeared on the store's Nov. 4 payroll.

However, Kirkwood added, he and Int'l Rep. Ed Rosenhahn were meeting with new employees regularly, and he expressed confidence that the RWDSU will win the election.

"We don't intend to stop with Alden's," Kirkwood said. "As soon as we've won this election, we're going on to organize other retail and department stores in Lansing."

Contact with the Alden employees was made in July by R. G. Jenks, president of RWDSU Local 93. Leading the active union members in organizing efforts inside Alden's is Chairman Nancy Fuller and a committee which includes Ollie Heath, Terry Hines, Goldie Simcox, Jerry Laughlin, Bob Stencil and Nell Zerkel.

Borden's Unit Leaders Urge Vote Turnout



Election of officers of the big Borden's Moore & Ross unit in Columbus, O., is scheduled for next month, and the present unit leaders, Chairman Robert Clark (l.) and Vice-Chairman Everett Andrews, urge a large turnout at polls to guarantee that officers elected are choice of majority of the unit.



CAMPBELL'S SOUP WORKERS came through once more in Chicago's "Red Feather" Community Fund campaign, with 70% of RWDSU Local 194 members averaging \$7.20 in payroll deductions for drive. With Red Feather kids prior to tour of plant are local leaders (l. to r.) Josephine Chlupsa, Henry Gistover, John Gallacher, Lenrow Austin and Willie Williams.

Strike Vote at Howard Stores; Bond Talks Opening in Chicago

CHICAGO, Ill.—While the Bond Clothing workers were making preparations for the start of contract talks in the coming week, the employees of Howard Clothes had unanimously voted to strike unless the company changed its no-offer stand—a stand it has held since negotiations began last May.

Chicago Joint Board Pres. Henry Anderson said a final attempt would be made to get the Howard management to make an offer. If this is unsuccessful, he said, a walkout would undoubtedly take place. A conference is due to be held before the end of November.

The Bond store employees, numbering about 200 and working in eight stores, throughout Chicago, will press mainly for more wages in the non-selling depart-

ments and higher commissions in the sales departments.

Other issues are job classification changes, vacation pay based on average earnings in all selling departments; pay or extra vacation for unused sick leave; extension of the 5-day, 40-hour week to all departments; store wide seniority for non-selling employees, double time pay for inventory work, and three days off with pay in case of death in an employee's family.

In the production division of the Joint Board, Anderson reported, a first contract was won at House of Dolls, whose employees voted three to one for RWDSU last Sept. 30, after a swift organizing drive led by Joint Board Rep. Manuel Galladora.

The firm employs about 150 workers in season, and between 50 and 100 the year round. Contract gains were wage increases of 10 cents an hour, a union shop 1 and 2 weeks' vacation after as many years of service and 6 paid holidays.

Ask Campbell's To Up Offer

CHICAGO, Ill.—With preliminaries over, serious negotiations for a new contract between Local 194 and the Campbell's Soup Co., which employs about 3,000 RWDSUers, got under way earlier this month. After three days of talks the union committee told the company it was dissatisfied with management's proposals to date.

The union committee called on the company to submit a more substantial wage offer than was made, and to improve its position on other issues, such as hospitalization benefits for members' families, pensions and vacation benefits.

The contract sessions resumed last week, as The Record went to press. Meanwhile, the union called a special membership meeting of Campbell workers for Sunday, Nov. 27, to discuss the progress of negotiations as well as ways to demonstrate the members' solid support and readiness to fight, if necessary, for their contract demands.

The major activity in this respect is a plant strike fund begun last month, to which individual members have been contributing. Members depositing \$10 or more in the Local 194 Credit Union are issued red and white strike fund buttons to be worn on the job. Local officers said participation in this action would have to be stepped up to make sure that the company is impressed with everyone's determination to win the demands.

The opening company offer was a 4% general wage increase, additional increases for some classifications in the can plant and mechanics in the maintenance department, and payment by the company of one-third the cost of family coverage for hospitalizations and surgical insurance.

Nestle Milk Co. Settles For 22c Hourly Package

MARYSVILLE, O.—Contract improvements totaling 22 cents an hour over a three-year period were unanimously approved by 120 members of Local 94 for settlement of their agreement with the Nestle Milk Co. at its powdered milk plant here, Int'l Rep. Eugene Ingles reported.

Three cents of the package will go to increased health insurance and the balance goes to reduce the work week from the present 48 hours to 44, with no reduction in take home pay.

Iowa Members 'Glean' Corn Fields to Aid Crippled Kids



Quaker Oats workers, members of RWDSU Local 110 in Cedar Rapids, Ia., "gleaning" corn fields in "Harvest of Hope" to aid crippled children.

Canada

Cape Breton Island, pop. 160,000, is a chunk of Canadian real estate that sticks out into the Atlantic off the eastern tip of the province of Nova Scotia. Here is located one of the most distant outposts of the RWDSU—Local 596—a union of workers employed in small retail and wholesale shops mainly in Sydney, the island's largest town. Most of the working people of Cape Breton are employed in coal mining and steel production, but several thousand work in the various retail establishments which serve the industrial areas.

Here is the story, told by the officers of Local 596—Pres. Dan White, Treas. Scotty Pierre and Secretary Theresa McCormick—of how this small local has grown in six months to more than five times its original 80 members.

INT'L Rep. Walter Kensit was sent by RWDSU's Canadian Director Thomas MacLachlan to Cape Breton Island at the end of April, 1955 to help the local membership to organize a union which could support itself and begin to realize the potential of organization of the several thousand retail workers throughout the 200-mile long by 100-mile wide island. Today, some six months later, Kensit says, "We have built the local to approximately 500."

In the beginning, says the local's secretary, Theresa McCormick, "When Brother Kensit came to our fair island, there were only 82 organized employees within Local 596. On the Island of Cape Breton there are three distinct groups: the miners, the steel-workers, and retail and wholesale employees. The first two are well organized, and the third—our group—is about the most unorganized group in Canada."

"But this picture has changed," says Pres. White, who pointed out that the membership "has been inspired by the results of the past six months' work, led by Kensit. The members have, after discussing the matter at three consecutive meetings, voted to increase their dues to \$1 a week so the local will be able to put on some full time staff and keep up the fast pace that has been set."

It Started in Sydney

The pace was started in Sydney, where five taverns were organized early in the campaign. The wages and conditions which prevail here are a 50 to 60-hour work week for pay ranging from \$24 to \$30. Strikes had to be conducted by these workers before the employers saw fit to sit down to talks, which are presently under way.

Elsewhere in Sydney, the 80-worker Eastern Bakers plant has been organized and certified as an RWDSU shop; Cape Breton Beverages and Ideal Beverages, distributors of Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola, respectively, have been signed up, and the employees at Phalen's Bakery have joined Local 596 in more recent activity. The Coca-Cola workers just wound up a one-week strike, in which they walked out solidly to protest the firing of a union member. Kensit said they are all back and awaiting certification.

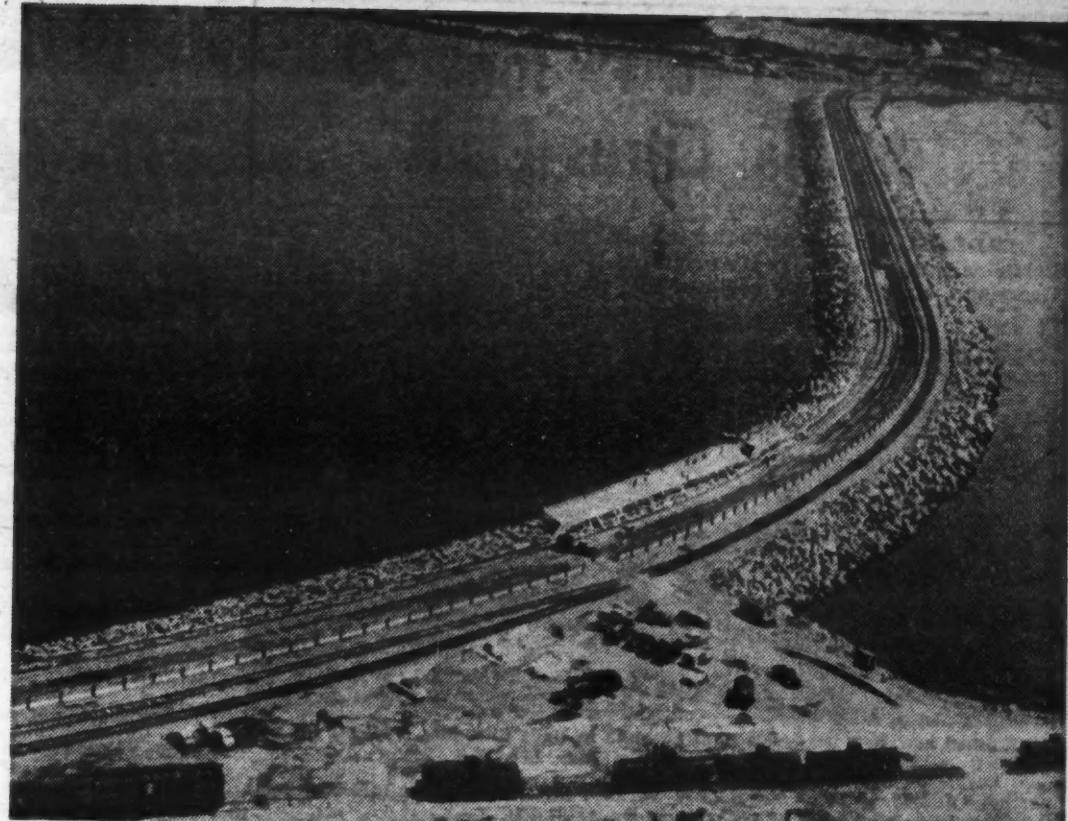
In Glace Bay and vicinity 11 shops were organized, including 10 grocery stores and one dry cleaner. The grocery workers put in 60 hours a week for wages which range from \$12 to \$28 for women and \$18 to \$30 for men. In New Waterford the employees of F. W. Woolworth in that town's branch of the huge five-and-ten-cent chain have joined RWDSU, as well as the Co-op Grocery Store's employees. And in Reserve another group of Co-op Store employees has joined.

Pact Talks On in Most Shops

Negotiations are under way in most of the 30 or so newly organized shops, which employ a total of close to 500 new members of RWDSU Local 596. The wages and working hours cited in a few cases are typical—"out of the world," as Miss McCormick describes them. It is the aim of the union to bring rates of pay up to decent levels, as well as adding such standard union contract benefits as seniority and other forms of job protection, vacations with pay and some measure of employer-paid health care. None of these benefits has been enjoyed by any of the newly organized workers.

Kensit pointed out that those most responsible for the success of the organizing drive are "the one and only Danny White and the other officers of the local, as well as the members themselves." He added that "a most important factor was the help of the Steelworkers and the Mineworkers Union members, who aided in supplying contacts and in giving us the use of their halls free of charge."

Says Dan White, "Our drive has slowed down a bit now, since we have to devote most of our attention to negotiating new contracts in the places we've signed up. But we haven't lost sight of our main aim. That is, to realize the possibilities we now have of organizing a really big union here on Cape Breton, not to speak of the province itself."

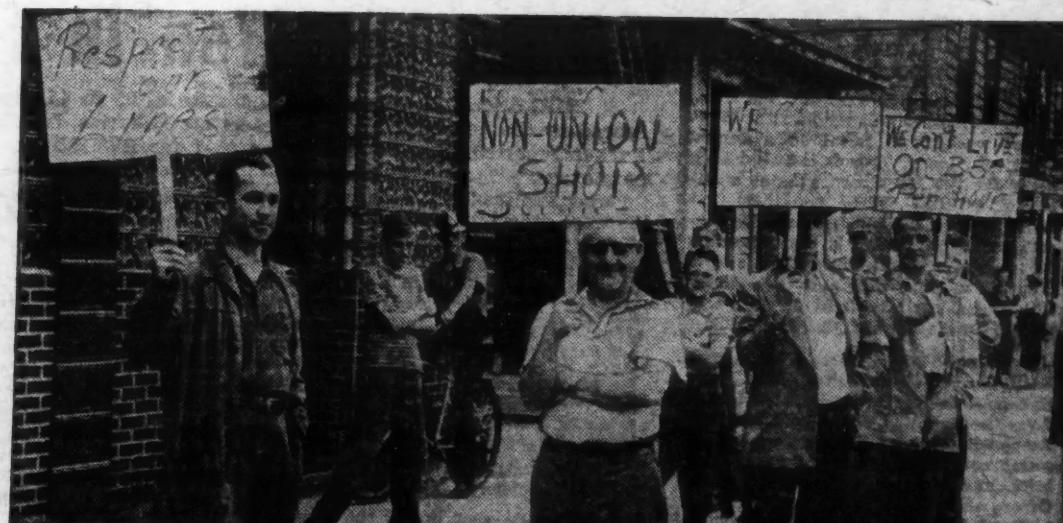


Only land link between Cape Breton Island and North American mainland, is the Canso Causeway, above, which was opened August 13. RWDSU drive is making swift progress on island.

A Local Grows By 500% in Nova Scotia



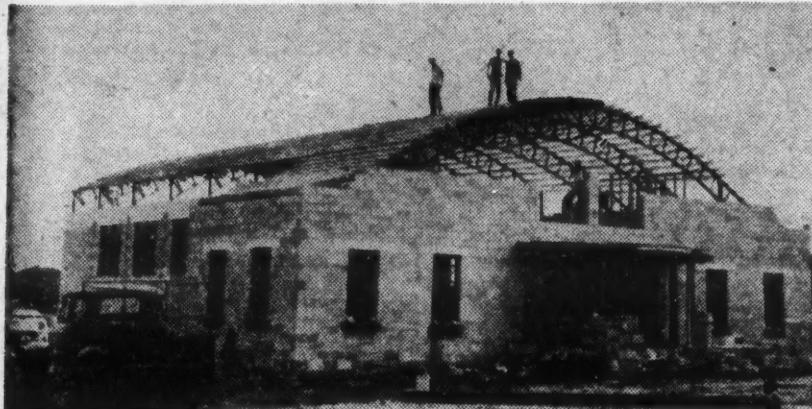
Leaders of Local 596 pose with International Rep. Walter Kensit, seated. Others are Sec. Theresa McCormick, Pres. Dan White, left, and Treasurer Lawrence (Scotty) Pierre.



Strike at Sidney taverns was necessary to convince Cape Breton employers that RWDSUers meant business in their organizing drive. Negotiations with employers followed walkout several months ago.

Election Dec. 15 for 450 At Fla. Citrus Plant

DADE CITY, Fla.—An election date has been set by the National Labor Relations Board for the newly organized B & W citrus canning plant in Groveland, about 20 miles north of this city, Int'l Rep. Larry Larsen re-



All finished now, new headquarters of Local 43 in Dade City, Fla., is all set for gala opening ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 17.

ported. On Dec. 15 some 450 B & W workers are scheduled to make official their desire to be a part of Local 43 of the RWDSU.

Guided by Arthur Osman, executive vice-president and southern director for the RWDSU, the B & W organizing campaign has been under way steadily since last April. It is the first new organization undertaken by Local 43 in many years, during which it was a one-plant local with membership in the Pasco Corp., biggest citrus packing plant in the world.

Even as the B & W campaign was beginning last spring, Local 43 started to organize among the employees of another citrus canning company, the J. William Horsey Corp. The plant is located in Plant City, about 25 miles south of here, and a majority of the 100 year-round employees has signed up. The work force goes to over 500 in the canning season, which is now beginning.

An NLRB hearing held last month resulted in the case being brought to the national office of the labor board in Washington. The union feels confident that the board will rule for an election to be held in the near future.

Both organizing campaigns are being led by Larsen with the aid of Local 43 Steward Curtis Hart and other rank and filers. Regular meetings take place with committees of plant employees to keep them posted on the drives' progress. As The Record went to press last week, full membership meetings were scheduled to be held at both B & W and the Horsey plant, Larsen said.

Within Local 43, meanwhile, the members took steps to set up their own sick benefit fund in face of the Pasco Company's refusal to consider a health insurance program or even to assist the members in arranging such a plan. The members of Local 43 have approved a rise in dues from 50 to 75 cents a week, effective Dec. 8, to build a fund for sick benefit payments of \$12 to \$14 a week to

Christmas Party In Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—It'll be a merrier Christmas this year for the H. L. Green employees as they join the W. T. Grant workers in Local 436's annual Christmas party. This is the first such party for the 100 Green girls as members of RWDSU. They won their first RWDSU contract last summer. The local's social committee is busy planning for games, a community sing and a dinner featuring CIO and Community Chest speakers. Highlight of the party will be the election of Miss Local 436.

Alabama State CIO Sec-Treas. Jim Battles and Community Chest Rep. Homer J. Harper are scheduled to address the expected crowd of about 250. Responsible for all these goings on are social committee members Sara Limbrick and Bernice Caraway of H. L. Green, and Margaret Turner, Cleo Enge and Margaret Spraggins of W. T. Grant.

Talks Due at A&P In Birmingham, Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Preparations for contract renewal talks between Local 261 and the A&P Company's warehouse in this city are under way. Regional Dir. Frank Parker said negotiations are scheduled to start around Dec. 1.

The negotiating committee, which will be headed by Int'l Rep. Bill Langston, will press for substantial wage increases and improvements in vacations, holidays and sick benefits. Others on the committee, which represents 80 workers, are Velma Farmer, Grace Padgett, James Sturky, Nathaniel Cook and Lewis Martin. Wage rates now range from \$1.30 to \$1.75 an hour.

Another Alabama Bakery Organized in RWDSU!

30 to 45c Won in First Interstate Pact

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Wage increases of 30 to 45 cents an hour are among the most impressive of the gains scored by the new RWDSUers at Interstate Bakeries, Inc. in their first union contract, Regional Director Frank Parker reported. The workers voted 66-7 for RWDSU Local 441 last Sept. 12, and the contract covers 85 plant employees.

Parker said the hourly increases reduce the wage differential between this newly organized plant and the other Birmingham bakeries organized in Local 441. Immediately effective are increases ranging from 10 to 25 cents an hour. An additional 5 cents will go into effect at the end of every 6 months during the 2½-year life of the contract.

It is expected that rates at Interstate will be brought further into line with



Bill Bordelon

The South

30c Hourly Boost at A&P Atlanta W'house

ATLANTA, Ga.—A hundred and twenty members of Local 343 working in the A&P Co. warehouse here won a new contract last month, with wage boosts of 30 cents an hour for the overwhelming majority over a three-year period. The raises make further improvements in rates which previously exceeded those of any group of warehouse workers in the southeast, Regional Dir. Frank Parker said.

The range of increases covering all employees in the plant goes from 22½ cents to 31½ cents an hour, bringing the rate range to \$1.51½ as a minimum and \$2.25 as the top hourly rate.

A third of the increase is effective Oct. 22 of this year, with the total raise being achieved in annual progressions until 1957. The contract expires Oct. 22, 1958.

Discuss Other Improvements

While wages were the only issue of real consequence in these negotiations, according to Regional Dir. Parker, the workers are seeking improvements in hospitalization and pension benefits through discussions by the regular labor-management committee in the plant. Plans are for the committee to meet on this project once a month.

The contract negotiations were led for the union by Int'l Rep. William E. Connell and '343' Pres. Thomas A. Walston, with a committee including C. H. Webb, Thomas L. Campbell, Marie Pittman, Melvin L. Davis, C. C. Cosby Jr., Johnnie Whaley and James C. Rawls.

The new contracts provide hours reductions from 50 to 44 per week plus wage boosts ranging from \$2.50 to \$5 a week. Also established were vacations of three weeks after 10 years' service and leaves of absence up to three months without any loss in seniority.

Ask Probe of NLRB in Miami Strike

MIAMI, Fla.—U.S. Attorney-General Herbert Brownell has been asked by an AFL union to launch an immediate "full-scale" investigation of the National Labor Relations Board for "intent" of the Taft-Hartley Act in connection with the protracted hotel strike at Miami Beach, Florida.

At the same time the union urged Brownell to make public the findings of an FBI probe of alleged denials of civil rights of striking hotel employees at the Florida resort town.

The demand for a Justice Department investigation of the federal labor agency was made by David Siegal, chairman of the 'Miami Strike Aid' Committee of the AFL Hotel & Restaurant Employees. In a letter to Brownell, Siegal bitterly assailed the NLRB for "failing or refusing" to hold representation elections among the Florida hotel strikers whose walkout is now entering its seventh month.

Charging that "laxity and dilatory tactics" by the Board were "subverting the intent" of the law, the union official declared that the refusal of the NLRB to

order elections as required by the law has "provided solace to the employers while denying workers their legal rights."

"Florida courts," Siegal said, "have issued injunctions banning picketing of the struck hotels on the ground that the workers have not selected the union as their bargaining agent in an official election. Yet the ludicrous fact is that no one in authority will hold official elections to permit legal designation by the hotel workers."

At the present time 21 Miami and Miami Beach hotels are on strike, the first walkout taking place last April. All told, the union has asked for NLRB representation elections in 167 hotels in the area. In the past three weeks two large Miami Beach hotels—the Vanderbilt and the Monte Carlo—signed union contracts. Strike leaders indicate that additional settlements may be made soon.

Elizabeth Garner, Horace James, Carl Bennett and James Franklin. Miss Robbins led the organizing campaign at Interstate.

Aiding Org. Robbins in the drive and providing a number of important leads in the plant was Local 441 Pres. Bill Bordelon, veteran leader of the local, who was re-elected president early this month. Parker says '441' is the fastest-growing local in the Southeast Region of RWDSU.

Parker said Interstate Bakeries, whose Birmingham plant produces Dolly Madison brand cakes, is a major bakery chain, with some 30 plants in operation now and new ones going up throughout the South.

DISTRICT 65

news

Why the Unorganized Are Responding to '65' Campaign:

New Spirit in Our Department Store Drive

By **BILL MICHELSON**
Organization Director, District 65

Developments in recent days at several of the department stores under organization by our union reveal an important change for the better, indicating that the hard work of our organizers and large numbers of our members is beginning to bear fruit. Most importantly, these developments reveal that the unorganized department store workers are now beginning to respond in substantial numbers to the '65' organizing campaign.

Until now, these unorganized workers were hesitant to join up; they questioned whether District 65 was in the campaign "for keeps", or would quietly steal away at the first sign that the campaign would be a prolonged and difficult one.

Now there are heartening developments at A & S, particularly in the warehouse, and at Stern's Great Neck, where we have organized a section of the store. At Bloomingdale's New Rochelle and A & S in Hempstead, substantial numbers of the workers have attended meetings of our department store locals, and have expressed enthusiasm at what they saw.

This change in the attitude of the people in the unorganized stores has come about for the simple reason that they now believe our members are determined—at all costs—to organize these stores and bring them under contract with District 65. This change in the unorganized workers, in turn, is caused by the change in attitude by our own members and leaders.

The best of our organizing staff, including virtually all of our general

organizers, are now at work full time on the department store campaign. They have brought with them a burning determination to succeed in this great organizing crusade in the decisive section of our jurisdiction, the department store field.

And among our members there is now an awareness of the point expressed again and again by Pres. Livingston in recent months—that in the department stores, where huge profits are being made, big raises can be won if substantial portions of the industry can be organized; and that these raises can set patterns for every shop in the District. This understanding has grown in every part of the union, particularly our department store section, where there has grown a feeling that despite the many improvements we have won, our rates are still unjustly low. Our members are telling this to the unorganized workers, and they are adding the simple fact that together we and they can make decisive changes.

Hundreds Home-Visiting the Unorganized

It is this change in our own attitude towards the organizing drive which has brought out hundreds of our members every week to visit the unorganized at their homes and in the stores, and to speak to them about the union and what it can do to change the wage picture in the entire department store industry.

There's still a long way to go before we reach our objectives. And along the way we're certain to meet bitter resistance from the department store owners, who are just as conscious of the great stakes involved in this campaign as we are. There's no doubt they'll be tough opponents. But now that our union is committed to this all-out struggle, we can see for ourselves just how great our resources are, just how much we can accomplish with the energy, skill and determination of our total membership directed toward the emancipation of many thousands of workers in the department store industry.



'PREFERRED' WORKERS PREFER '65'

In front row, after ratifying their first contract. Pact provides raises of \$2 to \$10, paid holidays, Security Plan benefits and improved vacations. Processing Local, led by General Organizer Andy Bellemore, is continuing to sign up new workers, concentrating on four shops with a total of 160 employees. Majorities have been reached in two of the shops.

The Training of A Trainee Organizer

PRESIDENT David Livingston has defined the job of an organizer in '65: "An organizer's job," he says, "is to organize." But besides this basic job, as Trainee Organizer Jack Welfeld and seven other trainees are learning, he must first organize the members of his local to perform the thousand and one tasks which, taken together, represent the efficient and democratic operation of a '65' local.

Right now Jack Welfeld and the other trainees are on the union staff for a three-month period for a special reason. The department store organizing campaign has taken a number of the experienced organizers out of their local assignments, and replacements are needed to lead the local rank and file in maintaining their locals' operation.

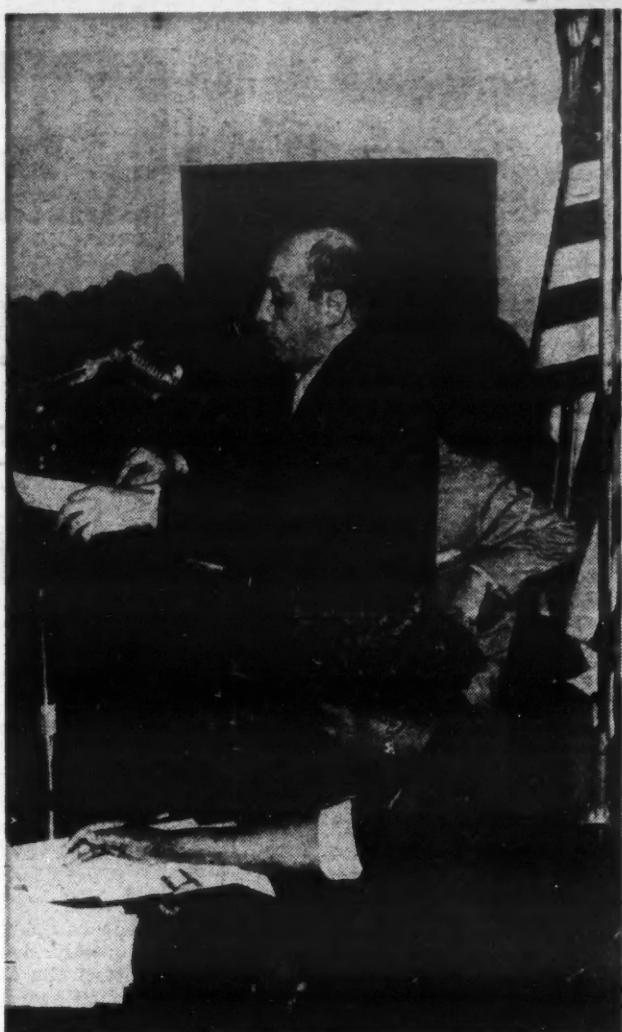
The trainees are receiving direct guidance at the skilled and experienced hands of three of the union's ablest leaders, Cleveland Robinson, Joe Tillem and Al Bernknopf. Each of the three is working with several locals whose regular organizers have been re-assigned.

The pictures on this page show Welfeld in a series of typical situations—addressing a membership meeting, meeting a group of workers outside their shop, working with local leaders and Al Bernknopf on local administration. He's learning mainly by doing.

Actually, the trainee program is far from a new development. It is simply more concentrated now that some of the regular staff has been re-assigned to the store drive. The fact is that for practically all the years of '65's existence, under the guidance of its founder, Arthur Osman, and more recently under the leadership of Pres. Livingston, Exec. Vice-Pres. Jack Paley, Organization Dir. Bill Michelson, and Sec.-Treas. Cleveland Robinson, the policy of training members for staff posts and then sending them back to the shop has been carried out.

Why train an organizer and then send him back to the shop? The answer to this question lies in the basic '65' approach to trade unionism. There is no better way to have an informed membership and one prepared to devote time and energy to operating and building the union, than to provide trained leaders in the shop. Secondly, when a trainee organizer goes back to the shop, he becomes one of a pool of trained rank and filers from which the union may draw for more permanent assignments to staff posts.

Thus, District 65 need never hire "professional" organizers or other responsible staff personnel who have never worked in a '65' shop and could not identify with the struggles of the members to make economic progress and to run a truly democratic union.



Trainee Organizer Jack Welfeld, who comes out of London Records shop, reports to Toy & Gift Local membership meeting in his capacity as acting leader of the local. In foreground is Secretary Willie Mae Greer.



Local officers and trainee organizer meet with Al Bernknopf, Pres. Livingston's assistant, on aspects of Local administration. L. to r., Steward Ben Wallace, Vice-Chairman Jerry Katz, Bernknopf, Chairman Sid Farber, Welfeld and Secretary Willie Mae Greer.



Lunch-hour confab with big A. Cohen shop on the sidewalk is occasion for Trainee Org. Welfeld to get lowdown on shop's reaction to membership meeting the night before, any grievances they have, check up on other matters.

With Toy & Gift local's Security Plan Committee, Welfeld checks employer Security Plan payment picture with Plan Director Irving Baldinger. L. to r., Herb Feder, Baldinger, Herb Bilkoff, Welfeld, Claire Potar, Sid Farber.

Livingston to Address Doctors At County Medical Society

The first labor speaker ever to address a meeting of the New York County Medical Society will be David Livingston, president of District 65, when he speaks to members of that body on Monday, Nov. 28.

The invitation to address the medical profession's organization came about as a result of District 65's pioneering effort to provide comprehensive medical care for its members. When Pres. Livingston put forward proposals last April for establishment of a companion medical program to provide medical care for 65ers not using HIP services, he met on several occasions with leaders of the New York County Medical Society and its counterparts in the other boroughs of the city.

Following these meetings, a coordinating council was set up by the N.Y. State Medical Society, which endorsed the fee-for-service cash medical benefits program that was adopted last summer by '65, and which began operations in September. The endorsement by the medical leaders was coupled with a recommendation to their physician-members that they provide medical service at the fees paid by the Security Plan under the fee-for-service program.

Announcement of the fee-for-service program's establishment was made in a joint statement issued by Pres. Livingston and Dr. Ezra A. Wolff, chairman of the coordinating council, in which the medical representatives complimented the union "on its efforts to promulgate a medical program based on the free-choice principle."



PRES. DAVID LIVINGSTON

Larger Shops Organized In Garment Locals' Drive

Garment Area 65ers are making greater progress in their campaign, announced and put into operation last summer, to organize 1,000 members by the time of District 65's next Convention in May, 1956. Latest success reported by the campaign's leaders, Organizers Al Dicker and Zeke Cohen, include the organization of two large Textile shops, a 17-worker Quilting shop, and a number of smaller ones.

Among the new and larger firms organized are Forge Mills and Lankau Textile, with 15 to 20 workers each. Both are Textile shops. Forge Mills was contacted by Trainee Organizer Harry Diamond and 65ers of Allure Fabrics. Negotiations are in progress between the firm and a committee led by Dicker and including Stewart Stephens, Walter Eadio, Jimmy Linder and Pete Marro.

The Lankau employees, who are scheduled to begin first contract talks Nov. 28, were brought into touch with '65 by Johnny Powers and George Bennett of Fabrics by Joyce and members of Benrose Fabrics. The Lankau shop has been an organizing target of 65ers for 15 years.

The Button Local, which according to Organizer Zeke Cohen is chalking up organizing gains for the first time in recent local history, reports organization of Navarro Novelty. And the Garment Supply Local reports completion of first contracts at Ageo Woolen and Coronet Quilting.

Wages were boosted from \$5 to \$10 a week in these shops, in addition to the establishment of Security Plan coverage and the other conditions which prevail

8-0 Vote for '65' Scored At Atlas Coating Corp.

CHEMICAL & PAINT LOCAL—In an NLRA election held Nov. 15 in the company's plant in Long Island City, the laboratory and warehouse workers of the newly organized Atlas Coatings Corp. voted for District 65 by 8 to 0, Organizer Morris Doswell reported.

Credit for organization of the Atlas workers goes to rank and file 65er Al Friedheim, who works in Monroe Sanders, three blocks from the Atlas plant.

Negotiations opened with the company Nov. 18. The demands of the workers include an \$8 wage boost, coverage under the '65' Security Plan, additional holidays and vacations, and a \$60 minimum in place of the present \$45. The shop committee consists of Antonio Carrion, Dancy Smith and William Theriault.

As a result of the organization of the Atlas shop, workers in another, larger chemical shop have been contacted and organization is in progress, Doswell said.



ARTHUR OSMAN
Reporting on AFL-CIO Merger

11th Hour Agreement Won at Vim TV Chain

RETAIL TV LOCAL—On the eve of a scheduled strike at the 56-store Vim TV and appliance chain, biggest in the country, agreement was reached at a meeting Friday, Nov. 11, between District 65 and the company. The settlement came after months of negotiations at which the 300 Vim workers were unable to get an acceptable offer from management.

Terms of the agreement include: a \$6 raise for non-selling employees with \$2 retroactive to last May 1, and an additional \$2 in May 1956 and 1957; a \$2 raise for salesmen, effective Nov. 1, 1956, plus a bonus of \$37.50 for each week of vacation enjoyed by the salesmen; part timers rates were boosted by five cents an hour. The contract runs to May 1, 1958.

For the past few weeks the Vim workers had been making preparations for a strike, had amassed a strike fund of over \$15,000, and had received strike authorization from the '65' General Council. The entire union was alerted to participate in the chain-wide strike Nov. 12, the deadline date for settling the contract.

The negotiating committee was led by Al Bernknopf, assistant to Pres. David Livingston. Bernknopf said that the union made an offer to arbitrate all the issues of the dispute in a last-minute effort to avoid a strike. The company, however, agreed at the final session Nov. 11 to settle the entire contract. The major issue open was the increase for salesmen.

Ratified by Vim Members

A meeting of the entire Vim chain was held at the '65' Center early on Saturday morning, Nov. 12, the day on which the strike was scheduled. By a near-unanimous vote the proposed terms for settlement were approved.

Present at the negotiations, in addition to Bernknopf, was a committee of 12 of the leading stewards and Organizer Stanley Gross for '65'; and Jay Kassover, Abe Schwartz and attorney Mortimer Horowitz for the company.

Exciting '65' Stewards Meeting Coming Dec. 7

Osman, Mayor of Haifa to Address Council

The December General Council meeting, which will take place Dec. 7 while the AFL-CIO merger convention is in progress, promises to be one of the most interesting in recent years. Arthur Osman, founder of District 65, will report to the Council on events at the convention, in which he will be participating as a delegate of the Retail, Wholesale and Dept. Store Union.

Another highlight of the meeting will be the turning over of funds raised during District 65's 1955 Community Fund Drive to representatives of several recipient organizations.

Representing the Greater New York Fund will be the Rev. James P. McKeon, director of Catholic Charities' division of finance for the Archdiocese of New York. Catholic Charities is one of the major organizations on whose behalf the Greater New York Fund solicits contributions.

More than \$18,000 was donated by 65ers during the Community Fund Drive,

and contributions were earmarked for many organizations. Among these, the following representatives will be on hand at the Council meeting to receive contributions: N.Y. Cancer Committee, the National Cancer Foundation, United Jewish Appeal, N.Y. Heart Association, Society for Prevention of Tuberculosis in the Children of Puerto Rico, the Salvation Army, American Red Cross and United Negro College Fund.

Still another feature of the meeting to which stewards will be looking forward is the expected appearance of Abba Hushi, Mayor of Haifa, Israel's major port city. Mayor Hushi will be informed that District 65 has communicated with all employers and stewards, urging them to help push along the Israel bond drive.

Mayor Hushi will also be told of other actions undertaken by 65ers to help defend his country: The Executive Board of Dry Goods Local has pledged to raise \$5,000 for a mobile medical unit to be donated to Histadrut, Israel's labor federation. Similar proposals are now under discussion in many other locals.

Recognition of the District's role as a staunch supporter of the democratic State of Israel was accorded to '65' on Nov. 16 when Pres. David Livingston appeared on the platform at a Madison Square Garden rally sponsored by major Jewish organizations. The rally was called

to appeal to the U.S. Government to negotiate a mutual security pact with Israel and in protest against the flow of arms to the Arab states as a threat to peace in the Middle East. Pres. Livingston shared the platform with such notables as Mayor Wagner, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Dr. Nahum Goldmann and community leaders.

\$7 Package at Dunhill, Newly Organized in '65'

TOY & GIFT LOCAL—A two-year package of \$7, including welfare benefits under the '65' Security Plan, was achieved by the 17 warehouse workers of Alfred Dunhill Tobacco, newly organized into District 65, Organizer Jack Welfeld reported.

The Dunhill workers also won a \$3 hike in minimums plus one extra day's vacation for every two of the 10 days of sick leave which are not used. The new contract won under District 65 was unanimously approved by the workers.

Elsewhere in the Local, Organizer Welfeld reported that 1955 contracts have been settled in Nutene Products, United Beauty Supply and United Toy, with increases ranging from \$4 to \$5.



TOYS ARE NEEDED to be repaired and refurbished by Retired members of '65, so that needy children can enjoy Christmas-Chanukah season. Senior 65ers above are wrapping gifts for distribution. They ask that toys, games and dolls—new or old—be donated by 65ers and families. Bring toys to collection depot in Security Plan office on 6th floor of District 65 Center.

'Home of Blue-White Diamonds' Signs With '65'; \$8 Increases

RETAIL MISC. LOCAL—After decisively voting for District 65 in an NLRB election, the employees of Herbert's Credit Jewelry, 7th Ave. and 125th St., followed up by winning their first '65' contract, Organizer Max Klarer reported. Herbert's, a Harlem landmark for many years, is well-known as "the Home of Blue-White Diamonds."

Gains registered in the new 3-year contract include a \$6 wage boost effective Nov. 7; an automatic increase of \$2 in 1956; improved vacations providing up to 2 weeks after one year's employment and a third week after 5 years; 8 holidays; 1 week sick leave, coverage under the '65' Security Plan; and a reduction in hours from 47½ to 42 in five days.

New minimums established provide: porter, \$55; salesmen, \$65 and \$75 after

90 days. Severance pay will range from one week after a year, to 10 weeks after 15 years employment. The contract expires in 1958 and has a reopening for wages on the anniversary date in '57.

Contact with the shop was established through the wife of one of the employees, a 65er who works in Lerners. Organization of the store was led by General Org. Nick Carnes, and negotiations by Org. Klarer, Nathan Elder and Senly Gunther, who comprised the shop committee.

Planning to Buy a New Car?

Are you window shopping the 1956 Models? The Credit Union will help you finance your purchase of a new car. You can borrow at the low Credit Union rates of 3½%. Consult District 65 Credit Union about a loan to cover your personal and holiday needs.

HOURS: Monday thru Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



DISTRICT 65 MEETING NOTICE

NOVEMBER

DATE	LOCAL	TIME	PLACE
Monday	Nov. 28 Cigar	7:00 P.M.	Room 508
"	" Corr.	6:30 P.M.	Fenthause
"	" Corr. Nite Shift	11:00 A.M.	5th Floor Lounge
"	" Sample Card	6:45 P.M.	Oval Room
Tuesday	Nov. 29 New Jersey	5:30 P.M.	Continental Ballroom
"	" Ref. Gen.	7:30 P.M.	Clover Room
"	" Screen	7:00 P.M.	Room 508
"	" Cos. & Drug	6:30 P.M.	Green Room

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30th — EXECUTIVE COUNCIL — 7:00 P.M. — CLOVER ROOM

DECEMBER

Monday	Dec. 5	Food	6:30 P.M.	Oval Room
Tuesday	Dec. 6	Shoe	7:00 P.M.	Green Room
Thursday	Dec. 8	Knitwear	7:00 P.M.	Oval Room
"	"	Chem. & Paint	7:00 P.M.	Panel Room
Wednesday	Dec. 13	Textile	7:00 P.M.	Penthause
"	"	Retail Jam. & Queens	7:00 P.M.	Whitman Hotel
Monday	Dec. 12	Direct Mail I	6:30 P.M.	Green Room
"	"	Needle	6:30 P.M.	Panel Room
Tuesday	Dec. 13	Apparel	6:30 P.M.	Penthause
"	"	Buiton	7:00 P.M.	Green Room
Wednesday	Dec. 14	Display Dept. Store	7:00 P.M.	Room 508
"	"	Display Dept. Store	7:00 P.M.	Clover Room
Thursday	Dec. 15	Metal (English)	7:00 P.M.	Green Room
"	"	Toy & Gift	7:00 P.M.	Room 508
Saturday	Dec. 17	Display Shoe	10:00 A.M.	Room 508
Sunday	Dec. 18	Union News	1:00 P.M.	5th Floor Lounge

\$1 Boost in Gimbel Rates Brings Raise for 400

LOCAL 2—In the course of negotiations with Gimbel's management on the 1955 contract reopening, the company has agreed to a \$1 increase in the minimum rates and progressions, '65' Department Store Director Carl Andren announced. The increase, retroactive to March 1, 1955, will affect approximately 400 Gimbel's employees whose rates were at the minimums set forth in the various categories. The increase will raise the lowest hiring rate at Gimbel's from \$38 to \$39 a week.

The union committee, headed by Pres. David Livingston, Andren and John Meegan, Local 2 Chief Organizer, has not yet reached agreement with Gimbel's on a general wage increase for 1955 and on specific departmental demands raised by the union. Negotiations will continue on these matters.

The 1955 Gimbel's reopening provided for coverage of the new Cross County store in Westchester, institution of the Pension Plan, and a general increase if the cost of living index showed a rise. Despite the fact that the government's cost of living index did not show a rise, the parties have agreed to discuss a general increase, and these discussions are continuing.

Meanwhile, union negotiators are pressuring Stern's management for the same increase in minimums and progressions won at Gimbel's, in addition to special demands for the Stern's warehouse members. Stern's has thus far not answered the union's requests, and the matter will be brought to arbitration quickly if management does not respond.

Under the Bloomingdale contract, the company is required to increase its minimums and progression rates by the same amount attained by Gimbel's and Stern's. This will mean a rise from the present \$38 lowest hiring rate to \$40 at Bloomingdale's.

Andren reported that the dispute with Bloomingdale management over the amount of an inequity fund for the warehouse goes to arbitration Monday evening, Nov. 28, at 6:30 at offices of the American Arbitration Assn. The company

has refused to increase the amount it has set aside to bring Bloomingdale warehouse rates up to those in other department store warehouses. Many of the warehousemen are expected to attend the arbitration.

Wage Boost in New Beauty Shop Pact

A two-year contract has been concluded with the Sofia Co., covering approximately 100 employees who work in the beauty shops of Sterns, Gimbel's and Arnold Constable, Organizer Jimmy Briggs reported.

The new agreement provides a \$2 wage boost, \$1 of which is retroactive to March 1954, and \$2 as of March 1955, bringing \$135 in back pay to manicurists, maids and receptionists in the three shops.

A one percent bonus was won for all commission employees, payable yearly at Christmas, plus improvements in the eligibility requirements for a third week vacation. This will bring immediate third week vacations to 12 employees, Briggs said.

The contract will expire in 1958, with reopenings in March 1956 and '57. Briggs led a committee from the three stores, including, for Sterns, Steward William Francis, Antione Ingro, Frank Rosiello and Georgia O'Toole; for Arnold Constable, Steward Dorothy Droszewski; and from Gimbel's, Steward Larry Abbe, Frank Manzo, Mimi Cunningham and Adele Beers.

Justice Dept. Turns Down '65' Demand for Till Case Action

A letter disclaiming federal responsibility in the Emmett Louis Till kidnap and murder case in Mississippi was received by District 65 from the U.S. Justice Department. It came in answer to the telegram calling for federal intervention sent by the huge Garment Center rally sponsored by '65', the NAACP and the Jewish Labor Committee last October, which blasted Mississippi "justice" for letting the killers off.

The Justice Dept. letter stated that "available information indicates that since Mr. Till was not transported across state line, this regrettable kidnap and killing involves violations of Mississippi laws only, and not of any federal statute. This Department, therefore, has no authority to undertake any action in connection with the matter."

'65' Sec.-Treas. Cleveland Robinson labeled the Justice Dept. position "a disgraceful ducking of responsibility in a case which cries out for federal action." He again called on the U. S. Attorney-General to intervene in the case, noting that since the Le Flore County grand jury had refused to hand down an indictment for kidnaping, the Justice Dept. had an obligation to conduct its own search for the kidnapers, and could not hide behind a mere "indication" that Emmett Till was not taken across a state line.



Record photo by Dudley Foster

SPECIAL AWARD was presented to Mario Abreu, dispatcher in '65' Employment Office, by Urban League inter-racial social agency, Nov. 15. Present were: L. to r., front, Marie Abreu, Mario, Antolin Flores, Retirement Dir. Jack Ossofsky, Nathan Burnett of the Urban League. In rear, L. to r., Med. Plan Org. Armando Ramirez, Carlos Ortiz, Org. Frank Patten, Mrs. Dolly Robinson, of the N. Y. State Dept. of Labor, '65' Sec.-Treas. Cleveland Robinson, and Louis Levine of the CIO Community Service.



In a conference room of United Nations headquarters Retired 65ers hear 71-year-old Mrs. FDR. At left is Retired Members' Chairman Felix Solomons, at right Pension Plan Dir. Jack Ossofsky. Next to Mrs. Roosevelt is UN's director of public information, Dr. William Agar.

Retired 65ers Visit at UN With 'First Lady of World'

Mrs. FDR Meets and Likes 'This Active Union Group'

America's first lady of the world, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, talked with a group of her contemporaries from District 65—the Retired Members—at the United Nations headquarters on Armistice Day, Nov. 11. At one point in her talk, discussing attitudes towards retirement, she looked around at the vigorous old-timers before her and said, "I'm very glad that this group of retired members of District 65 is active and doing so many different things. That's how it should be."

The visit to the U.N., an annual event for '65' Retired Members, is just one phase of a big—and still growing—program of activities for this "fastest-growing group in the union." The program includes classes in English, current events and other subjects; repairing toys for needy children; preparing bandages and dressings for the Cancer Committee; participation in many union committees and activities; and trips to various points of interest, such as the U.N.

All things about the visit with Mrs. F.D.R. were wonderfully appropriate for the Retired members.

On Armistice Day, when we especially mark the horrors of war and the need for world peace, the senior 65ers gathered at the headquarters

of the agency to which the whole world looks for the means to peace. There they discussed with Mrs. Roosevelt such things as the outlook for older men and women in this country, the State of Israel, where everything is young and growing, and the prospects for world peace. The leader of the discussion, Mrs. FDR, is, like the Retired Members, a vital, active lady of some years—71 to be exact. And one of the main areas of her activity is the UN, which she serves in her capacity as an officer of the American Association for the United Nations.

To illustrate her attitude towards those who feel that older people should give up all activity, Mrs. F.D.R. told this anecdote: A reporter recently asked her when she was going to learn to knit and retire. "Well," she answered, "I'm 71 years of age and I've been knitting all my life, but I don't intend to stop doing all the other things I do and just knit."

Heads nodded and faces broke out in smiles as the 65ers heard their own sentiments expressed so beautifully in the words of this great woman. For through their union and its Pension Plan they have won freedom from serious financial need, and the opportunity to organize the host of useful and interesting activities which fill their days.



No rocking chairs for this happy group of lively, interested Retired 65ers, gathered outside United Nations headquarters on annual trip to U.N. where they visited with Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

Record photos by Roland Willoughby

LA VOZ HISPANA

Bienvenida la Convención AFL-CIO!

Cuando los delegados a la Convención AFL-CIO arriben a la ciudad de New York a fines del próximo mes, notarán la existencia de la Unión de "Retail Wholesale & Dept. Stores", porque en cientos de las pequeñas y grandes tiendas, bajo contrato con el Distrito 65, y otras locales, habrán rótulos y letreros, dando la bienvenida a los representantes, de la próxima a ser, gran organización, AFL-CIO.

Con 70.000 miembros en la ciudad la RWDSU es una de los Uniones dirigentes en New York, en términos de números solamente. Mas aun muchos de estos miembros trabajan en las tiendas, donde muchos de los delegados y sus esposas harán sus compras durante su estadía en la ciudad. En la sección del centro de la ciudad, donde muchos delegados estarán hospedados, los rótulos de la RWDSU se verán en las tiendas por departamentos, en zapaterías, farmacias, sitios de venta de periódicos, librerías, tiendas de televisores y otras más.

Los letreros hechos en una atractiva combinación de verde, dorado, blanco y negro fueron designados por Stanley Glaubach, y representan a Miss Liberty, guinando, mientras se prende el nuevo botón AFL-CIO, simbolizando a ambos, la ciudad de New York como una ciudad unionizada y la unificación obrera que ha de materializarse en la próxima convención.

Los letreros dicen, "Bienvenida AFL-CIO" en pequeños y grandes tipos. Empeados de esta tienda son miembros de Retail Wholesale & Dept. Store Workers Union-CIO.

Con algunos cientos de miles de estos letreros y rótulos de varios tamaños, la oficina del Record que es quien hace las distribuciones está recibiendo órdenes de todas las locales.

Liga Urbana Homenajea a Despachador del '65'

Mario Abreu, Despachador en la Oficina de Empleos del Distrito 65, recibió un homenaje de parte de la Liga Urbana honrando al Distrito 65 por sus actividades en favor de la unificación de razas y grupos nacionales y honrando a Mario Abreu por su infatigable esfuerzo para mejorar las condiciones de la colonia Puertorriqueña en Brooklyn.

El homenaje se llevó a cabo el día

15 de noviembre durante la comida anual de la Liga Urbana, la agencia inter-racial más grande de la nación.

Dicho homenaje se celebró en el salón de baile del Hotel Towers en Brooklyn y fué atendido por Cleveland Robinson, Secretario Tesorero del Distrito 65, por Armando Ramírez, organizador del Plan Médico, Jack Ossofsky, Director del Plan de Retiro, Frank Patten, organizador, y Antolín Flores y Carlos Ortiz.

Campana en Tiendas por Dept., Se Marcan Nuevos Objetivos

Creemos que esta campaña de organización del Distrito 65, no debe limitarse solamente, a la tiendas por departamentos y sus sucursales, pero si debe ser una campaña para organizar todas las tiendas por departamentos y sus alrededores, en el área Metropolitana.

Con estas palabras presentó Bill Michelson, director de organización, al mitin del Concilio General celebrado en el mes de Noviembre, la nueva dirección a la gran campaña de Organización. Extendiendo la campaña para traer miles de nuevos miembros, tanto en las tiendas por departamentos, como en otras industrias dentro de la jurisdicción del Distrito 65, la Unión se hará más fuerte, y la situación será más saludable para salarios y mejoras de todos los miembros del Distrito 65.

El razonamiento aplicado por Michelson al concilio fué el siguiente:

1. Las ganancias obtenidas en una sección de la Unión pueden ser aplicadas como ejemplo, para obtener ganancias similares en otras secciones.

2. Mientras las mayores ganancias pueden ser obtenida en las tiendas por departamentos donde los negocios son más saludables, y los trabajadores son los más mal pagados, esta industria será el ejemplo para toda la Unión en las negociaciones del 1956.

3. Las ganancias que se obtengan en las tiendas, estarán relacionadas con la Organización en la industria. Por eso esta campaña deberá alcanzar muchas tiendas desorganizadas, además de Abraham y Straus, y las sucursales de Sterns y Bloomingdales.

4. A medida que esta campaña se desarrolle, nuevas oportunidades para organizar se abren, en las vecindades de las tiendas, y miles de estos trabajadores pueden ser organizados.

5. Estos nuevos trabajadores traerán más fortaleza a la campaña de organización en las tiendas, y será mayor la

oportunidad para obtener mayores victorias en otras jurisdicciones.

En esta campaña, para sumas a la Unión miles de trabajadores desorganizados, el Distrito 65 urge a estos trabajadores, para que sean parte de la Unión más grande en las tiendas por departamentos, Retail Wholesale & Dept. Stores Union. Y con la fusión del AFL y CIO el próximo mes, será un gran incentivo, para los trabajadores desorganizados, para formar parte del nuevo y gran movimiento obrero unido.

Cada miembro del 65, juega un importante papel en esta campaña, que determinará, extensamente el futuro de nuestra Organización, su fortaleza, estabilidad y las condiciones obtenidas para nuestros miembros.

Baile Auspiciado Comité de Negros en Diciembre 3

El baile anual de otoño auspiciado por el Comité de Actividades de los Negros del Distrito 65, se celebrará el día 3 de diciembre en el salón Penthouse del Centro del 65, anunció el Secretario-Tesorero Cleveland Robinson. Las ganancias de dicha actividad serán donadas a las agencias de caridad para los negros.

Un conjunto de estrellas compuesto por Tyree Glen, Cozy Cole, Pops Foster, Toby Brown, Johnny Windhurst y Dick Carey proveerá música continua. Benito García y su Orquesta también nos deleitará con números de Calipso y Mambo. Los boletos valen \$1.50 por adelantado y \$1.75 en la puerta y pueden conseguirse en la Unión.

Fiesta a Smash Success!

Over 1400 members and friends of '65' practically overflowed the Penthouse Ballroom Nov. 19 to attend a sparkling Latin-American Celebration sponsored by the union's Spanish Affairs Committee. Ticket sales at the door had to be discontinued at an early hour because of the huge turnout.

Committee Chairman Abe Baex said that the celebration was a huge success financially and otherwise, with the true spirit and unity of '65' coming through as members of all nationalities, races and creeds attended. Many newly-organized members in '65' were also present, including a contingent from the Abraham & Straus store, now under organization,

The affair presented the best in Latin-American dance music and many hips swayed to the rhythms of Conjunto Tipico Cibaeno and Professor Mesorana & His Orchestra.



Record photo by Irving Francis

SPANISH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE did yeoman job arranging affair and insuring its success. Committee chairman Abelardo Baex is in center row, 3rd from right. Several committee members were enjoying themselves elsewhere when photo was taken.



DANCE FLOOR SHOOK to strains of Latin-American rhythms as huge, happy crowd responded to beat of current dance crazes, the mambo, cha-cha-cha and merengue. The 1400 members and friends of '65' agreed—it was a wonderful affair.



Portrait of happy 65ers at Latin-American Celebration Nov. 19. In group are Sec. Treas. Cleveland Robinson and wife Sue, Gen. Org. Bob Burke and wife Frances, Rec. Dir. Sol Molefsky, committee chairman Abe Baex, Dispatcher Mario Abreu, Aniella Flores, and several other organizers and committee members.

100 and 1

Gift Ideas for Christmas at Consumer Service

Consumer Service, 8th Floor, 13 Astor Place • Open daily
10 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Friday to 8 p.m.) Sat. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

TOYS

LAUNDRY SET—Electric iron, metal ironing board, metal washing machine and wringer, wicker laundry basket, revolving clothes line, clothes pins (Reg. \$6.30). Consumer Service price\$4.25

DOLL-E-NURSE—32 piece formula set for daughters' doll baby. Contains genuine nursing units, sterilizer, rack, etc. (Reg. \$1.95). Consumer Service price\$1.25

DOLL-E-DO DISH—A complete 12 piece kitchen housekeeping set. Contains sinkstrainer, dishpan, dishrack, apron, dishmop, brush, towel, etc. (Reg. \$1.95). Consumer Service price\$1.25

UNDECIDED

on what to buy for him, her or them? Here's an easy answer: a Consumer Service Gift Certificate. They're available now at Consumer Service, 8th Floor, 13 Astor Place.

DOLL-E-SHOPPER—Sturdy, all steel shopping cart, with lift out wire shopping basket and adjustable doll seat. Filled with famous brand packages (Reg. \$4.95). Consumer Service price ...\$3.35



LITTLE PLAY NURSE KIT—The most complete Dr.-Nurse kit available in the most realistic Dr. carrying bag ever offered (Reg. \$2.98). Consumer Service price\$1.89

REAL TRUMPET—13" long. Heavy gold finish on break-resistant plastic. Genuine brass hand-tuned reeds play bugle calls and marches. Carrying case (Reg. \$4.00). Consumer Service price ...\$2.49

REAL CLARINET—17" long. Ebony break-resistant plastic with heavy silver finish on keys and fittings. Genuine brass hand-tuned reeds play full scale melody. Carrying case (Reg. \$4.00). Consumer Service price\$2.49

REAL GLOCKENSPIEL—25" long. Play outdoors as glockenspiel—indoors as xylophone. Gold and silver finish on break-resistant plastic. Precision-tuned metal bars play full scale melody (Reg. \$4.00). Consumer Service price\$2.49

REAL SAXOPHONE—17" long. Silver and gold finish on break-resistant plastic. Genuine brass hand-tuned reeds play full scale melody and sustained harmony. Carrying case (Reg. \$4.00). Consumer Service price\$2.49

PLASTIC UKULELE—Colorful, Howdy Doody jumbo Jr. size uke. Rich tones, standard tuning, non-slip pegs, nylon strings. Handsome carrying case (Reg. \$1.00). Consumer Service price ...\$0.65

BLOCK CITY—Educational, entertaining, scale model construction set for boys and girls. The blocks interlock, all parts fit perfectly to make different model houses (Reg. \$2.95). Consumer Service price\$1.85



SHU-SHINE BANK—A genuine, colorful all steel, shoe shine kit with foot rest and shoulder strap. Kit has slot bank for coins and genuine shoe shine equipment (Reg. \$1.95). Consumer Service price\$1.25

HANDY ANDY TOOL SET—14 piece tool set plus steel tool box. Has complete set of fine finished tools for the young carpenter to build his own projects. Claw hammer, saw, mallet, pliers, etc. (Reg. \$3.00). Consumer Service price\$1.75

MICROSCOPE SET—This is a master microscope set in a lithograph steel cabinet with large astigmatism accessories and equipment. "Mic." has hairline focus with 2 adjusting knobs. All angle tilts control, 3 eye pieces, 8 lenses, 4 magnifications (Reg. \$9.95). Consumer Service price\$6.45

COLORING FUN—14" x 12" reversible magic erasable white crayon slate. 12 magic erasable pictures, 8 color by number pictures, 16 crayons, crayon sharpener, 2 felt erasers (Reg. \$1.95). Consumer Service price\$1.25



PAINT SET—8 jars of poster paints, 32 paint cakes, 10 crayons, mixing tray, brush, 2 water cups, palette, colored picture, color chart (Reg. \$1.95). Consumer Service price\$1.25

'SING A SONG' RHYTHM KIT—From the Charity Bailey TV Sing a Song program for children. Kit contains hand drum, finger cymbals, rhythm knockers, tone block, triangle, song book with instructions (Reg. \$3.00). Consumer Service price\$1.75

'DENNIS the MENACE' MISCHIEF SET—A kit loaded with provoking harmless tricks and novelties, will delight both youngsters and adults (Reg. \$2.00). Consumer Service price\$1.25

'52 GAME CHEST—Several multicolor playing boards for 52 games, 24 plastic interlocking checkers, plastic dice, glass marbles, plastic markers and instructions for 52 games—all in carrying kit (Reg. \$1.95). Consumer Service price\$1.25



GIFTS FOR THE HOME

BAR MASTER SET—Professional cocktail set of 6 pieces. Patented shaker glass, stainless bar shaker, strainer, squeezer, jiggers and spoon; recipes (Reg. \$8.95). Consumer Service price \$5.35

SANTA CLAUS IN PERSON

at Consumer Service every Saturday from now until Christmas from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Santa has a free gift for every child who says hello to him.



FAMOUS BRAND STEP STOOL—This is the top make in kitchen step stools with back rest. Chrome body with solid Duran covering in yellow, green, red and charcoal grey (Reg. \$12.95). Consumer Service price\$8.55

'CAMFIELD' AUTOMATIC TOASTER—The new 1956 model of this top rated toaster. Completely automatic with two sided color control (Reg. \$22.95). Consumer Service price\$12.45

'GENERAL' CHROME MEAT SLICER—The most popular of all home slicers for meats, cheeses, etc. Suction cups on bottom of slicer prevent movement while in use (Reg. \$24.95). Consumer Service price\$15.95

COFFEE CARAFE—12 cup coffee carafe with copper warming stand. Beautifully shaped coffee server of guaranteed heatproof glass (Reg. \$5.00). Consumer Service price\$3.95

COFFEE CARAFE—16 cup size with black warming stand (Reg. \$5.50). Consumer Service price\$3.95

'LIBBY' BEVERAGE SET—A set of eight, 10 oz. beverage glasses in the Mediterranean pattern with silver trim. Gift boxed (Reg. \$8.50). Consumer Service price\$5.85

'LIBBY' BEVERAGE SET—Eight Pilsener 11 oz. glasses in the Seville pattern with 22k gold trim (Reg. \$8.50). Consumer Service price\$5.85

"JUST WHAT I WANTED"

It's no problem shopping for gifts when you give a Consumer Service Gift Certificate. Available now in various amounts at Consumer Service.

G.E. CLOCK RADIO—(Reg. \$24.95). Consumer Service price\$18.50

G.E. TABLE RADIO—(Reg. \$24.95.) Consumer Service price\$18.50

G.E. TABLE RADIO—(Reg. \$15.95.) Consumer Service price\$12.45



RCA 'IMPAC' PORTABLE RADIO—(Reg. \$24.95.) Consumer Service price\$18.75

'DYNAVOX' RECORD PLAYERS & HI-FI—AVERAGE 45% OFF.

PERSONAL GIFTS

PARKER '21' SET—This is a closeout price on a boxed pen and pencil set by Parker. Quantity is limited (Reg. \$8.75). Consumer Service price \$4.45

'RONSON' WHIRLWIND LITER—A special purchase makes this phenomenal value possible. Famous 'Whirlwind' style comes in tan or grey enamel covering with blank inscription plate for initials (Reg. \$8.95). Consumer Service price \$4.45

FAMOUS BRANDS MEN'S & LADIES WRIST WATCHES FROM 40% TO 60% OFF.

GIFTS FOR MEN

MEN'S ELECTRIC SHAVERS—Two famous brands whose name we cannot mention—Reg. price listed at \$29.50. Our price \$15.95 and \$16.50.

CUFF LINK SETS—Latest styles in cuff link and tie clasp sets by 'Kreisler'. Available in gold or sterling. Reg. \$8.50 plus F.T. Consumer Service \$4.95 plus F.T. Cuff links only, reg. \$5.00 plus F.T. Consumer Service price ...\$3.95 plus F.T.

MEN'S LONG SLEEVE PULLOVER SWEATERS—100% Zephyr wool pullovers in grey, blue, camel, small, med., large (Reg. \$8.95). Consumer Service price\$4.75

MEN'S LONG SLEEVE ORLON PULLOVERS—(Reg. \$8.95.) Consumer Service price\$6.95

MEN'S 100% WOOL COAT SWEATERS—This is a shrink controlled garment and comes in navy, camel, charcoal, grey. Sizes 40 to 46 (Reg. \$8.95). Consumer Service price\$5.45

MEN'S MOROCCO LEATHER WALLET—(Reg. \$6.00 plus Federal tax). Consumer Service price\$3.19 plus Federal tax

MEN'S ALLIGATOR WALLET & KEY CASE—(Reg. \$15.00 plus Federal tax). Consumer Service price\$8.75 plus Federal tax

MEN'S PAJAMAS—High count broadcloth or flannel. Solid colors or prints. Sizes A, B, C, D (Reg. \$9.95). Consumer Service price\$5.95

BOY'S SHIRT - BOWTIE - CUFF LINK SET—This complete unit comes in boxed sets and makes an ideal gift. White blue, mint. Sizes 3 to 12 (Reg. \$2.45). Consumer Service price\$1.65

MEN'S HEMPHILL ARGYLES—Packaged 3 pair to a box. All color combinations. Sizes 10 1/2 to 13 (Reg. \$8.95 per pair). Consumer Service price3 pr. for \$1.95

MEN'S NYLON STRETCH SOCKS—Latest patterns in Helanca stretch sox, one size fits all. Solid colors or patterns (Reg. \$9.95). Consumer Service price\$6.95

MEN'S DRESS SHIRTS—White on white, single needle tailoring, ocean pearl buttons. Sizes 14 1/2 to 17 (Reg. \$3.95). Consumer Service price ..\$2.65

MEN'S DRESS SHIRTS—Also, white on white imports (Reg. \$5.95). Consumer Service price \$3.75

MENS ARROW STYLE SHIRT—High count broadcloth, spread collar. White, blue, mint, pink. Sizes 14 to 17 (Reg. \$4.95). Consumer Service price\$2.65

MENS WINDPROOF UMBRELLAS—Stainless steel shaft—10 rib—no shrink acetate rayon (Reg. \$9.95). Consumer Service price\$3.75

GIFTS FOR WOMEN

LADIES ORLON SLIP-ON—Hi bulk orlon, interlock knit in many colors, sizes 34 to 40 (Reg. \$4.95). Consumer Service price\$2.95

LADIES ORLON SLIP-ON—Cardigans to match (Reg. \$7.95). Consumer Service price\$4.25



LADIES LEATHER FRENCH PURSE—(Reg. \$5.00 plus Federal tax). Consumer Service price \$2.19 plus Federal tax.

GIRLS' NITE GOWNS—Fluffy and warm, brushed rayon nitties for girls sized 4 to 14. Blue, maize, pink (Reg. \$2.95). Consumer Service price ..\$2.10

GIRLS' COTTON or DACRON BLOUSES—Various styles, prints and colors. Sizes 7 to 14 (Reg. \$2.95). Consumer Service price\$2.19

LADIES 100% WOOL COAT SWEATERS—Ideal gift for mother. Sizes 40 to 46, navy, black, green, rose (Reg. \$8.95). Consumer Service price \$3.75

SANTA'S IN TOWN

every Saturday at Consumer Service from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. And he has a free gift for every child. Come up to 8th Floor of 13 Astor Place and visit with Santa.

LADIES SKIRTS—Full circle quilted taffetas or velvet. Sizes 10 to 18 (Reg. \$8.95). Consumer Service price\$5.95

LADIES UMBRELLAS—Acetate rayon fabric in solids or prints. 16 rib with plain handles or 16 rib with fancy handles (Reg. \$2.95). Consumer Service price\$1.75

GIRLS' UMBRELLAS—Non-shrink, acetate rayon in solids or plaids. 10 ribs (Reg. \$2.95). Consumer Service price\$1.75

RECREATION news

'65' Christmas-Chanukah Parties For Kids Due Sunday, Dec. 18

The Recreation Dept. of District 65 announces that the Annual Kiddie Christmas-Chanukah Parties will be held on Sunday, Dec. 18. This year's events will be held on Sunday for the first time so that the entire family can attend. A top-notch show of TV personalities has been booked for the parties, and there will be fun for young and old.

Two shows have been scheduled to accommodate the large crowd expected, the first at 1 p.m. and the second at 3 p.m. Tickets are priced at 65 cents. The Penthouse Ballroom of the '65' Center will be set up so that each child and adult will be able to see and enjoy the wonderful show planned.

Of course Santa Claus will be there and a holiday gift will be given to each child who attends. Tickets are available at Consumer Service or through local organizers and stewards.

As an added treat, Santa Claus will make personal appearances each Saturday at 11 a.m. in Consumer Service on the 8th floor of the '65' Center, beginning Nov. 26. A special gift will be presented to each child with the compliments of Santa Claus and District 65.

Remember the Kiddie Party: The Date: Sunday, Dec. 18th; The Time: 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.; The Place: Penthouse, 13 Astor Place.



CLASSIFIED ads

Things to Sell, Buy, Swap

Things for Sale

PLAYPEN. Also carriage. Excellent condition. Reasonable. Call eves., ME 8-8234.

FIREPLACE. Mahogany brick with andirons. Like new. No reasonable offer refused. Majonis UL 3-3028 after 7:30 p.m.

ACCORDION. La Tosca, with case and stand. A-1 condition, must be seen to appreciate. Call eves., HY 3-8462.

CLOTHING. Knox Winter Blue Overcoat, Tuxedo, Sport Coat. Size 40. Excellent buy, slightly used. ME 8-4187 after 8 P.M.

TRAVERSE DRAPES. White with gold antique satin. Bedspread ensemble. Youth crib, vacuum, baby tends, black Persian, size 12. Reasonable. DE 2-7532.

CARRIAGE. Atlas, in good condition. Heavy chrome. Cost \$80. Will sacrifice to any reasonable offer. CL 1-9813.

BEDROOM SET. Complete, like new, excellent condition. Will sacrifice at any price within reason. TI 3-7701.

ELECTRIC TRAINS. Lionel "O" gauge, passenger and freight cars, also switches. (1) microscope power 80 to 450. Call after 6:30 p.m. CY 8-2431.

BEDINETTE. Trimble like new, playpen and pad, excellent condition. Summer Carriage, Blue Plaid, will accept reasonable offer. Call ME 8-5287.

REFRIGERATOR. Servel, 7 cubic feet, like new, very reasonable. Call OR 7-9469, 6-9 p.m.

WINTER COAT. Navy Chinchilla. Spring coat, size 8. Living room table lamps, twin bed spreads. Perfect condition. Reasonable. FO 7-5731.

LOVE SEAT. Eclipse. Sleeps two, excellent condition. Any reasonable offer. Call PR 3-3833.

CRIB. Beautiful natural wood. Perfect condition, very reasonable. GE 8-8880.

PERSIAN PAW COAT. Size 40, in good condition. Reasonable. Call eves. LO 8-6127.

1951 KAISER. 4 door, radio, heater, directions, rebuilt motor. Body perfect. Sacrifice. \$375. Joe. NI 8-5744 after 6 p.m.

This Classified Ad section is for use of Union members only. Rates are 25¢ per ad for all ads except "Services," whose rates are \$1 per ad. Maximum number of words for each ad is 20. Mail or bring ads to The Record office, 7th floor, 13 Astor Place, New York 3, N.Y. All ads must include payment, member's name, address, shop and union book number. Deadline for next issue is Sat., Dec. 8.

Services

TV & REFRIGERATOR REPAIR. All makes. Special rates to union members. Bronx, Manhattan & Queens serviced. RA 6-1144 or YE 2-7838, 6-9 p.m.

FURNITURE. All top name brands at big discounts. Manufacturers showrooms only. Every make nationally advertised. Bedroom sectionals, bedding, etc. Glavin, LE 2-2194.

PAINT SPRAYING. Done in your home. Kitchen cabinets, refrigerators and medical equipment. Colors matched. Clean work, guaranteed. HY 5-4609 or GL 8-5338.

SPECIALIST. Washers. Bendix Automatic. Queens County Only. After 6:00 p.m. AS 8-8027.

TELEVISION SET. Would like to buy 12½ inch television set. Please call NI 8-3474.

TYPEWRITER. Portable, must be in good condition. Call eves. LO 8-6127.

Wanted

TORCH LAMP. Also mahogany table lamp wanted. Must be in good condition. Call morning or evenings. HY 3-8469.

TELEVISION SET. Would like to buy 12½ inch television set. Please call NI 8-3474.

TYPEWRITER. Portable, must be in good condition. Call eves. LO 8-6127.

Revlon, '1199' Shine In First Hoop Tilts

By JOHN O'NEILL

After the first week of play in the District 65 Basketball League, four teams are in first place and four are in last. This is the only time during the year when the squads will be so close. Impressive wins were scored in the opening round by the two-time champions of the league, Retail Drug Local 1199, by Revlon, Garment Area and Brooklyn Area.

Local 1199 took a strong Doubleday Book team to the tune of 84-72, while Revlon won easily against RWDSU Record Newshawks, 60-40.

Garment Area, in their first outing against Lerners, turned back the Apparel team in the closest game of the week, 48-41. Brooklyn Area rolled over Zurich Insurance quintet, 71-56, in the final game of the Friday, Nov. 18 doubleheader.

It is expected that '1199' and Revlon will be the two top running teams for the '65' title. Both teams will have the opportunity to take on more formidable opponents in the course of the next few weeks, and by the time the holiday break comes, we'll know which is the team to beat.

Every season produces a few more stars on the '65' basketball scene, and 1955 is no exception. Revlon has come up with a fine ball handler and dead-eyed scorer in the person of Ralph Graves. The \$64,000 Question squad also lists on its roster many fine veteran performers like Frank King, Mike Seguto and Max Evelyn.

Local 1199 has John Dolinac back—and that's a pretty fair beginning for a team. John has the poise of Bob Cousy of the Boston Celtics, and is as valuable to '1199'.

The Garment Area squad has come up with a fine player in Joe Midgett. Veteran personnel on this squad includes Nelson Morales, Joe Beckser and Johnny Oliva. The Lerner big gun is Frank Prinszino when he can get away from school to play.

'65' Basketball League First Half Schedule

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

7:00 RWDSU Record - Lerners

8:15 Local 1199 - Garment Area

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

7:00 Revlon - Doubleday Book

8:15 Lerners - Zurich Insurance

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:00 Revlon - Brooklyn Area

8:15 Local 1199 - Zurich Insurance

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:00 Garment Area - Doubleday Book

8:15 Lerners - Brooklyn Area

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:00 Zurich Insurance - Garment Area

8:15 Local 1199 - Brooklyn Area

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

7:00 Revlon - Garment Area

8:15 Doubleday Book - Brooklyn Area

All games are played at Stuyvesant H.S.—

15th Street near First Ave.

Voice and Drama Class Casting For One-Act Play and Choir

The Voice and Drama Class of District 65, under the direction of Hope Hern, announces that there are a number of roles still vacant in a play being rehearsed, "The Street Has A Funeral" by William Kozlenko.

The one-acter, which calls for five women and 2 men actors, is a moving play about the horrors of war as experienced by the women who must bear and lose their sons.

Also in rehearsal is a small a capella choir working on arrangements of three folk-songs. If you can carry a tune, like

to sing and want to learn voice projection and some musicianship, come to the class on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

The Voice and Drama group expects to present these dramatic and vocal "tidbits" at union meetings and special occasions as soon as they are ready.



New emblem of AFL-CIO is reproduced here for the first time.



Max Greenberg
President



Alvin E. Heaps
Secretary-Treasurer



Jack Paley
Executive Secretary



Arthur Osman
Exec. Vice-President



Alex Ball
Exec. Vice-President



Sam Kovenetsky
Exec. Vice-President

'Dramatic Moment in History'

An Appraisal of AFL-CIO Merger by Officers of the RWDSU

There are only a very few occasions when the participants in a meeting can feel that they are living through and sharing in an historic experience, one that is likely to have a profound effect not only upon their own lives but on the lives of many other people for many years to come.

That sense of a momentous experience was felt by the founding fathers of our country when, in the immortal words of Abraham Lincoln, they "brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." And it was felt ten years ago when delegates met in San Francisco to establish the United Nations and declared that the organization's purposes included such objectives as "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person . . . and to promote social progress and better standards of life in greater freedom."

Today, as we await the opening of the convention that will merge the two great bodies of American labor into one powerful new federation, we too are aware of the dramatic quality of this moment in history. It is a time for re-dedication to the ideals we believe in, a time to prepare ourselves for the new era that begins with this convention, a time for self-appraisal—to discover within ourselves the strength and skill and enthusiasm we will need for the tasks that lie ahead.

The new federation has set its sights high. The preamble to the constitution of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations states: "We pledge ourselves to the more effective organization of working men and women; to the securing to them of full recognition and enjoyment of the rights to which they are justly entitled; to the achievement of ever higher standards of living and working conditions; to the attainment of security for all the people; to the enjoyment of the leisure which their skills make possible;

and to the strengthening and extension of our way of life and the fundamental freedoms which are the basis of our democratic society."

These are noble objectives—but it should be remembered that they are objectives and that they will not automatically come into being on December 5, 1955. They will have to be worked for and fought for—and it will be a continuing struggle, just as the effort to maintain and extend liberty and equality and justice in our own country and throughout the world is a continuing one..

The new AFL-CIO will be what we, its members, make it. Certainly the circumstances of its birth hold out great hope. This is a federation that begins its life with tremendous assets: a membership of more than 18 million organized workers; a relatively healthy and stable national economy; the means for settlement of internal disputes; unity of purpose on every major issue; and leaders of integrity and ability.

With these great resources, AFL-CIO starts with the odds in its favor. Millions of organized and unorganized workers are pinning their hopes on its success; untold additional millions will be affected by the uniting of American labor as the moral, political and economic strength of this great organization is directed toward the building of peace, security and freedom for all mankind.

We, the officers of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, pledge our unremitting efforts in building the new federation of which we are a part, and extend fraternal greetings to the officers and members of the 150 International unions that make up the AFL-CIO on behalf of the 160,000 members of the RWDSU. May this founding convention be recorded in history as a landmark in the progress of mankind to a richer and fuller life for all people!



AS delegates to the CIO, AFL and merger conventions converged on New York City, signs proclaiming "welcome" flowered forth in hundreds and hundreds of stores in the midtown Manhattan area. The windows of department stores, shoe stores, drug stores, appliance stores, food stores, newsstands, luncheonettes, women's apparel stores, haberdasheries, dry-goods shops, furniture stores, shoe repair shops and many, many others told all who passed by: "Employees of this store are members of the Retail, Wholesale and Dept. Store Union, CIO."

This vivid demonstration of the extent of RWDSU organization in the world's greatest city pointed up the fact that the RWDSU is one of the three largest unions in New York. Under contract with the RWDSU are literally thousands of companies, ranging in size from the world's largest department store, with over 8,000 employees, down to many one-employee shops.

An idea of the size and scope of the RWDSU can be gained from the famous names reprinted on the facing page. These are only a few of the employers with whom the RWDSU has contracts. Among them are some of the giants of American industry.

The present strength of the RWDSU is all the more remarkable in view of the fact that much of its growth is very recent. A year and a half ago, the RWDSU was a union that numbered barely 70,000 members. Then, in May, 1954, came the birth of a new and greater union when the Distributive, Processing and Office Workers, with 50,000 members, and the Playthings, Jewelry and Novelty Workers, with 20,000, merged with RWDSU. With this impetus and with the additional evidence of the new vigor and strength of the RWDSU, additional affiliations were announced in succeeding months: a local industrial union of newsvendors in Los Angeles; 8,000 Macy's department store employees, members of Local 1-S; a 700-member independent toy workers union in Girard, Pa.; the 2,000-member Catering Employees Local 1064 in Detroit; 500 members of an independent union in a New Jersey candy plant. Coupled with these was a steady succession

This Is the RWDSU!

of organizing victories scored by RWDSU locals throughout the U. S. and Canada.

The metropolitan area of New York is the heart of the RWDSU. Here are some 70,000 of the union's total membership of 160,000. It was in this area that the union was born. Here are many of its most powerful locals, which together represent a tremendous potential—not only for organizing and collective bargaining, important as those are, but also for political action and other forms of participation in the life of the community.

Keeping pace with the growth of the outlying sections of the metropolitan area, RWDSU locals are actively engaged in organizing in the suburbs. Substantial progress is being registered in organizing department stores, supermarkets, drugstores, apparel shops and many other retail stores in fast-growing Long Island. Strong locals in New Jersey, Westchester County and nearby Connecticut are equally alert to the new opportunities offered by the trend to the suburbs.

In New England, there are nearly 20,000 RWDSU members, organized in strong locals in such major cities as Boston, Providence, New Haven, and Springfield, as well as in many smaller cities and towns.

In the midwest, the RWDSU has more than 35,000 members, with some 10,000 in Chicago alone. Other strongholds are in Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Missouri. In Pittsburgh, a powerful local has contracts with the leading department stores of the city, while in Battle Creek, Mich., the giant Post Cereals plant is an RWDSU shop.

In the South, 10,000 members are organized in locals in practically every state. Particular strong points are in Birmingham, Memphis, Suffolk, Va., Charleston, S.C., Dade City, Fla., and Atlanta.

The RWDSU is an International union in fact as well as in name. It extends across national boundaries with 15,000 members in five Canadian provinces. Greatest strength is concentrated in Ontario, with other strong locals in British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and a rapidly growing organization in Nova Scotia.

Many more areas of RWDSU strength could be added: Eastern Pennsylvania, upstate New York, and others. But no recital of numbers and places could do justice to the new size and strength of the RWDSU, and the new spirit that permeates the entire union—a spirit of enthusiasm, of eagerness to build and strengthen the organization, and a sense of participation in a vital and dedicated labor movement.

This is the RWDSU!

A CAMPAIGN that set a new high in labor participation was the drive waged last spring to boost the federal minimum wage. It was a campaign in which both AFL and CIO unions participated wholeheartedly—even though many of their members already earned enough so that they would not be directly affected by even the \$1.25 minimum on which labor had set its sights.

The Retail, Wholesale and Dept. Store Union is generally credited with having done one of the most effective jobs ever performed by a union in rallying members to lobby for a higher minimum wage. Here's how it was done:

- Beginning early in March, the RWDSU Record carried a coupon in every issue, addressed to the chairmen of the Senate and House Labor Committees, urging them to boost the minimum wage and extend coverage. Thousands of these coupons, as well as telegrams, postcards and letters were sent to Congress.

- A mobilization of RWDSU delegates from all parts of the country was held on April 19 in Washington. It was the most successful rally of its kind ever held, with 650 delegates from 24 states buttonholing more than 100 Congressmen and urging them to vote for the higher minimum.

- On the same day, RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg appeared before

Sen. Paul Douglas' sub-committee at a hearing on proposed minimum wage legislation, and made a strong case for extending coverage to retail employees as well as boosting the minimum.

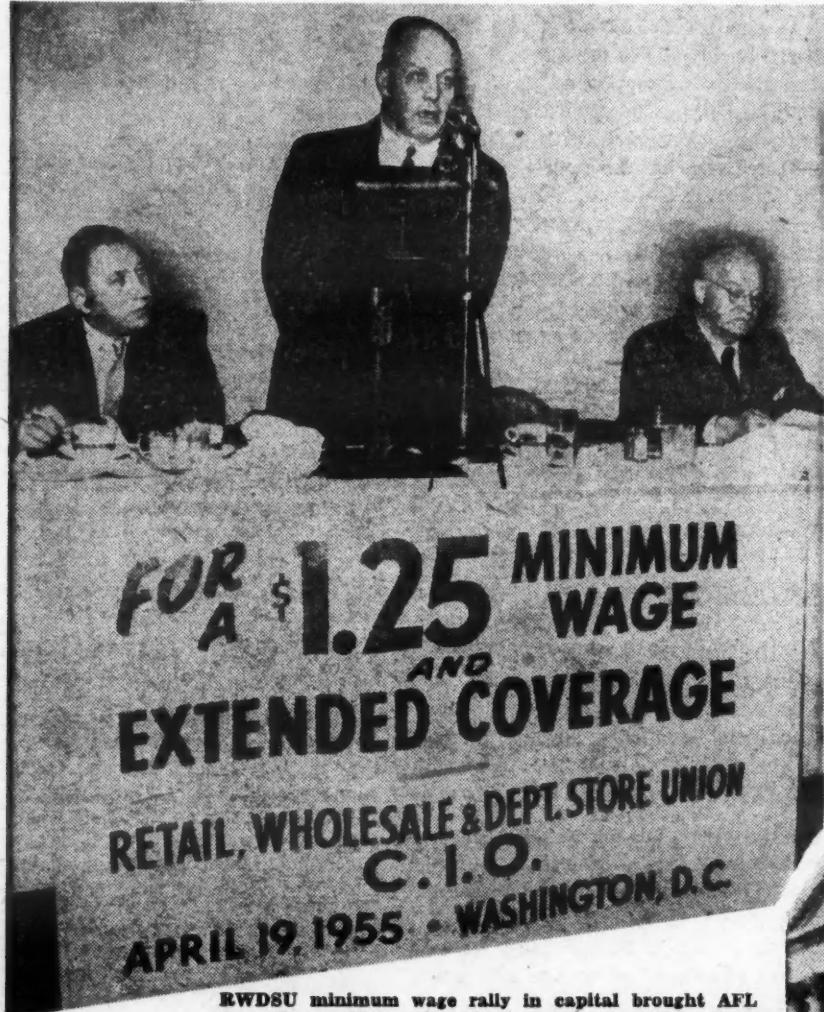
- Sparked by the successful mobilization, which drew praise from AFL Pres. George Meany, CIO Legislative Director Robert Oliver and other notables who attended a luncheon meeting of the RWDSU delegates on April 19, follow-up visits to Congressmen in Washington and in their home states were made by many RWDSU officers and members.

Meanwhile, other unions were also engaged in rallying support for a higher federal minimum. As the days and weeks went by, the GOP administration was finding its position of stubborn insistence on a 90-cents-an-hour minimum more and more uncomfortable.

Finally, the Senate voted approval of the \$1 minimum by a large majority, and a few weeks later the House did the same. Faced with the alternative of vetoing the \$1 minimum and incurring the wrath of many in his own party, Pres. Eisenhower reluctantly signed, and the bill became law.

Thus, on March 1, 1956, the date specified by the new law, the \$1 minimum wage goes into effect. About 24 million American workers will enjoy the protection of a new and higher floor under wages.

RWDSU Helped Win \$1 Minimum



RWDSU minimum wage rally in capital brought AFL Pres. George Meany to address luncheon meeting. With him above are RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg, l., and Congressman Emanuel Celler. Below and at right are views of RWDSUers lobbying at Capitol.



\$1 MINIMUM
FOR RETAIL EMPLOYEES



Extended Coverage—Big Fight Ahead For RWDSU and All of Labor

When Congress approved the \$1 minimum wage last summer and President Eisenhower signed the bill, organized labor hailed it as a tremendous victory. It was a tremendous victory, since the \$1 per hour minimum was achieved in spite of the GOP Administration's stubborn insistence on 90 cents.

But great as this victory was, it represents only half the battle. The other half is labor's campaign to extend coverage under the Federal Minimum Wage Law to the 20 million workers not now covered.

To these 20 million workers, minimum wage coverage is still a promise that is tantalizingly dangled before them by both Democrats and Republicans. But the promise, far from being fulfilled, seems to grow more distant every year. In 1950, when the federal minimum wage was raised from 40 cents an hour to 75 cents, 2,500,000 workers were removed from the coverage they had previously enjoyed. In 1955, when the minimum wage was once again brought before Congress, the question of coverage had to be put aside because proponents of the higher minimum wage agreed that it would be impossible to get Congress to extend coverage at the time it was increasing the minimum wage.

As a result, liberal and labor strategists agreed to postpone consideration of extension of coverage until the next session of Congress in 1956. Leaders of both AFL and CIO set their sights for this session on a modest objective: inclusion of some four million retail employees who are not now covered by law, and the ending of exemptions enacted in 1950 which denied 2,500,000 workers the protection of federal law.

Senator Lehman's Proposal

Senator Lehman's minimum wage bill in the last session set forth the kind of retail establishments that should be covered by the law. His proposal would bring under federal coverage any retail firm with more than four branch stores and/or an annual sales volume of more than \$500,000.

By any standards, this is a modest and reasonable requirement. No one can honestly argue that a company with four or more branch stores, or one which does an annual volume of half a

million dollars, falls into the category of a corner grocery or candy store. Firms of this size are big business, and there is no reason why they should enjoy exemption from the same kind of law that governs small and large manufacturers.

Tremendous opposition to this proposal was expressed last spring by the representatives of the retail industry. It is to be expected that they will generate even more opposition when Congress reconvenes. And the retail industry has some heavy artillery in its camp—tremendous firms, among them the giants of American industry, with plenty of money and very good contacts to bring pressure on Congress.

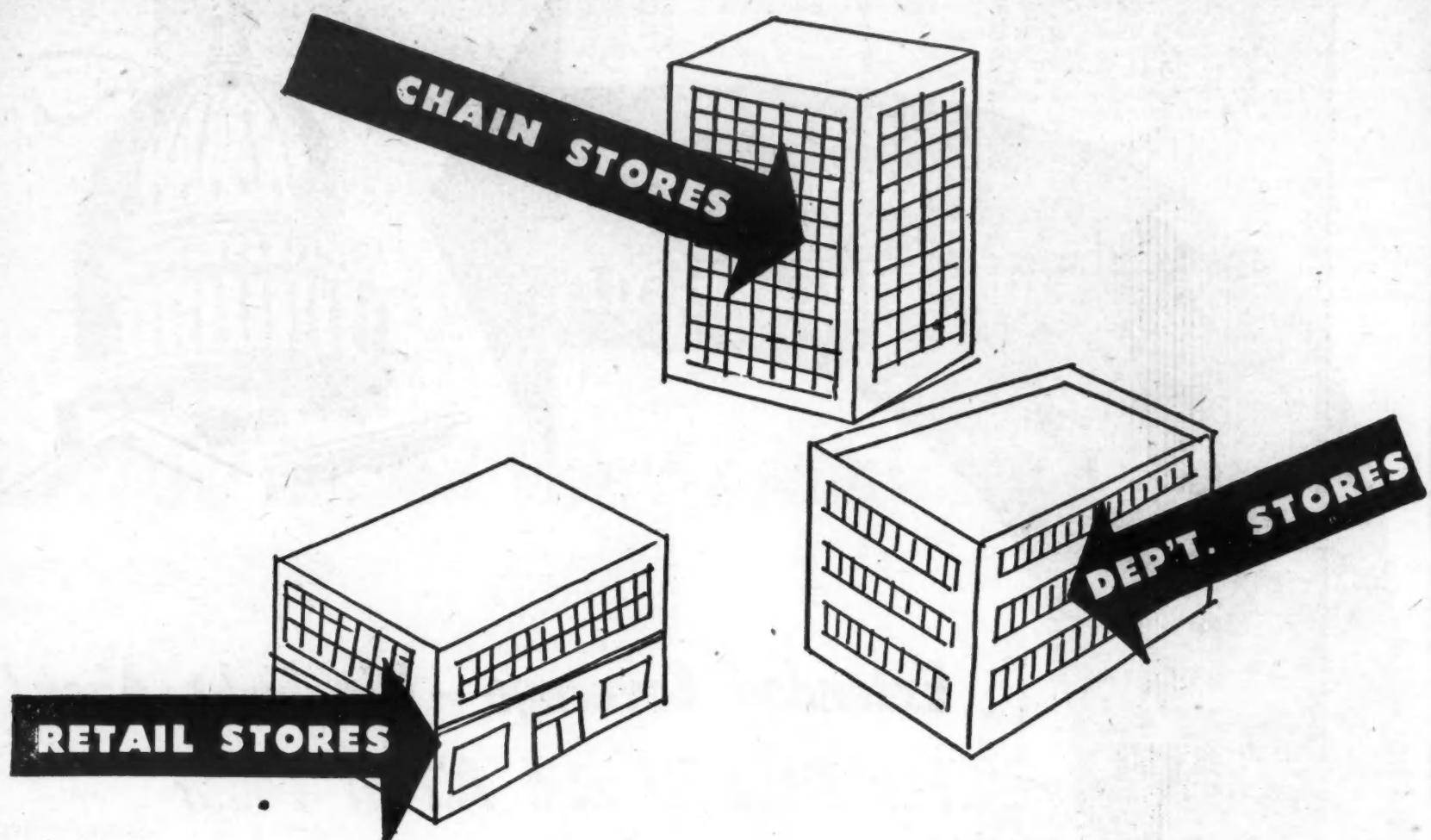
The Strength Labor Can Must

The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, which will be a spearhead in the campaign to extend minimum wage coverage, does not have comparable resources to meet the attacks of the retail industry. What it does have is a membership of 160,000, most of whom are not covered by the law and who need very much to win this minimum protection. And behind these 160,000 workers and their families, stands the great strength of the AFL-CIO with its 18 million members. That strength can and must be mobilized to win this fight!

In every city and town where there are RWDSU members, the campaign must get under way as soon as Congress reconvenes. Letters and postcards to Congressmen urging extension of coverage must be sent. Senators and representatives must be visited in their home cities and in Washington. State and city labor bodies must be brought into action. Other forces in the community—churches, liberal organizations, civic associations—can be rallied in this campaign. Even unorganized workers can help win minimum wage coverage if they are rallied by organized labor, and by being involved in the campaign, can be organized as well.

Business Week magazine, in its November 12th issue, had this to say about the forthcoming battle: "Wider minimum wage coverage will get active backing. But odds are it won't be voted."

It is up to all of us to change the odds and to make sure that retail employees win the \$1 minimum wage!



New Opportunities for RWDSU and AFL-CIO

Labor's Biggest Organizing Challenge

By MAX STEINBOCK

From the moment it comes into being, the new AFL-CIO will be concerned with the problem of organizing the unorganized. There are today some 65 million Americans who are employed. If we exclude men and women in the armed forces, executives, professionals and the self-employed, there remain about 45 million workers who could be organized. But of these 45 million, the unions making up the united labor movement will represent some 16 million—a little more than one-third.

Thus a substantial majority of American workers are unorganized. This group includes farmhands, migratory labor, civil service employees, office workers and workers in the largely unorganized oil and chemical industries.

And it includes at least 4,500,000 unorganized retail employees.

"Retailing," says the University of Chicago's Journal of Business, "is today the largest remaining frontier for labor-union expansion."

It's not an easy frontier to break through, as many unions, including the RWDSU, have found. Retailing is an industry that includes giant department stores with thousands of employees. It's also an industry where 92 per cent of all the retail stores in the United States have less than ten employees each.

Laws 'Protect' Retail Industry

It's an industry that enjoys unusual protection—thanks to federal and state laws and the way they've been interpreted. Retail workers are not covered by federal minimum wage laws—and state laws, where they exist, are far from adequate. The National Labor Relations Board refuses to take jurisdiction over retail cases unless the company is in the \$2,000,000-a-year class or bigger.

Retailing is an industry where fabulous profits are made. But it's down in the bargain basement when it comes to wages for employees, ranking way below construction, mining, transportation and manufacturing. There's one major reason that stands out: lack of union organization in the industry. Here's the proof:

Back in 1932, the average manufacturing workers earned \$17.05 a week, while the average wage in department stores was \$20.71 a week. By 1955, the factory average had risen to \$73.97 a week, but the average department store wage was only \$47.42.

The major change that took place in manufacturing during these 23 years was that the great mass-production industries were organized: steel, auto, rubber, clothing, and many others. But only a relatively small segment of retailing came under union contracts during those years.

There were many reasons for the comparative lack of organization: the tremendous turnover in retail employment, which in many cases made it necessary to organize a store over and over again before

a contract could be won; "the traditional reluctance of white-collar employees to accept unionism as a means of solving their problems," as the University of Chicago Journal of Business puts it; the high proportion of women, young people and part-timers in the industry—many of whom regarded their jobs in retail stores as temporary ones; jurisdictional competition between unions; plus all the other factors that have held up organization in many other industries as well as in retailing: federal and states anti-labor legislation, increasing government sanction of union-busting moves by employers, etc.

The Retail, Wholesale and Dept. Store Union, in its efforts to organize retail workers, has scored substantial gains for its members over the years. RWDSU members enjoy wages, hours, working conditions, welfare benefits and pension programs equal or superior to those won by any other union. But even these could be improved with the organization of a more substantial part of the industry.

Today the RWDSU is in the best position in its history—ready, willing and able to do the job of organizing that needs to be done. The best proof lies in the record scored by the RWDSU in the past year. This is not to say that a union of 160,000 members is equipped to tackle all at once the task of organizing four million unorganized workers. Obviously, the sights of the union must be—and are—set on realistic and attainable goals.

At the meeting of the RWDSU General Council last June, a modest organizing target was set: a growth of ten per cent in membership in each of the next three years. The first six months since then have shown that this goal can be met and surpassed. Today, with labor unity a reality, the RWDSU can look forward with confidence to the attainment of even greater objectives.

RWDSU Leaders Planning to Meet Challenge

The officers of the RWDSU are preparing for the new opportunities that will emerge as a result of the establishment of AFL-CIO. The adoption of a program charting the targets and planning the organizing methods to be used will be a major topic on the agenda of the RWDSU Executive Board meeting which will take place a week after the merger convention. And that program may very well serve as a guide to the new federation when it draws up its own plans for organizing the major unorganized industries.

The men who will lead the merged labor movement have made it clear that organizing will be the Number One objective of the AFL-CIO. Such a program cannot help but give consideration to the needs of unorganized retail workers—the millions who make up the largest remaining non-union stronghold. Bringing these millions into the ranks of organized labor will be a task of tremendous magnitude—but it is a task to which the RWDSU is dedicated, and one which will challenge the greatly increased resources of the entire labor movement.



BERNIECE CARAWAY of Local 436, Birmingham, Ala., works at H. L. Green variety store, organized into RWDSU only a few months ago. Berniece is a 19-year-old blonde, 5 ft., 9 1/2 inches tall, weighs 140, and measures 36-26-37 in the usual order.



ELEANOR BACLAWSKI is the name of this sultry blonde. She lives in Stratford, Conn., works at Lerner Shop in Bridgeport. Belongs to Local 282. Eleanor is 20 years old, 5' 9", weighs 135, and registers 36-25-36 in the vital measurements.



HELEN IGNATOVICH, 17 years old, is The Record's youngest contestant so far. Helen lives in the Bronx, N. Y., is a member of Local 1-S. She works at Macy's Parkchester. This blue-eyed blonde is 5' 10", weighs 150, and measures 38 bust, 28 waist and 38 hips.



JOSEPHINE DE MATTEIS, a member of Local 482, New Haven, Conn., is black-eyed, black-haired. She works at New Haven Quilt & Pad Co., is 24 years old, 5 feet 3 inches tall, weighs 118 lbs. and measures 38-27-34.



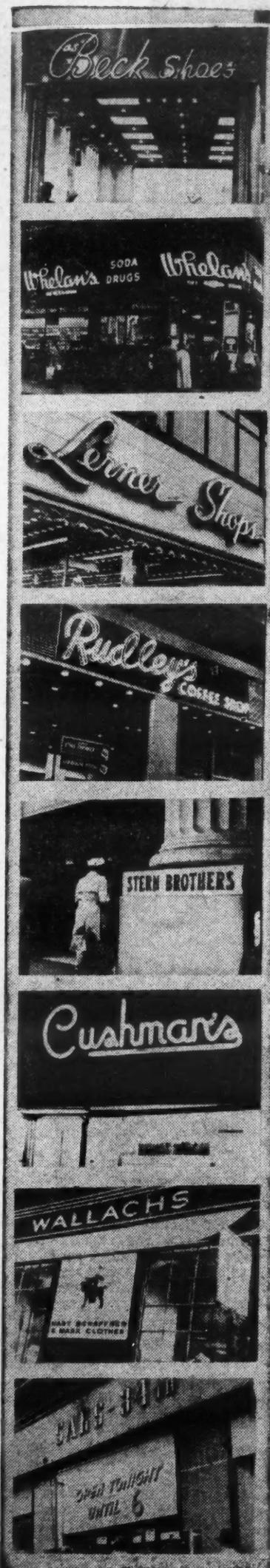
EDNA VAZQUEZ lives in the Bronx, works for L. Luria & Co., and is a member of District 65. She's a black-eyed blonde, 5' 6", tall, weighs 130 and registers 38-25-38 on the tape measure, according to her entry.

Bevy of Beauties Vie For 'Union Queen' Title

We're being overwhelmed by beauties! We've always suspected that there were lots of pretty girls in the Retail, Wholesale and Dept. Store Union, and now we're confirming it. Here are five of the latest entries—and there are lots more whose pictures we'll print if space permits. But there are still many pretty members, we're told, who haven't yet sent in their entries.

The Record's Beauty Contest is going along so well we're tempted to keep it going indefinitely—but that wouldn't be fair to the entrants. They want a chance at those terrific prizes that are scheduled to be awarded to the winner and four runners-up: appearance on famous television programs, a free vacation, clothes, jewelry, and many, many more.

There's still time to enter—but this opportunity won't last forever. If you're too shy to send in your own photo, have a friend or fellow employee do it. Make sure you enclose with your picture the following information: name, home address, where employed and nature of your job, number of local, age, height, weight, color of eyes and hair, and measurements of bust, waist and hips. Send this with photo (preferably in bathing suit) to The Record's Beauty Contest, 132 West 43 Street, New York 36, N. Y. DO IT NOW!



AFL-CIO Delegates Will Shop At Union Stores

No matter what a delegate (or a delegate's spouse) may want to buy in New York City during the AFL-CIO convention, chances are it can be bought in a store with an RWDSU contract.

On this page are only a few of the thousands of New York stores whose employees are RWDSU members. They include department stores (which sell practically everything) and stores that specialize in men's wear, women's apparel, shoes, shoe repair, electrical appliances, sporting goods, drugs, food, bakery products, and many other items. Among them, they can provide everything from a nickel orange drink to a mink coat, or a prefabricated house.

Most of the RWDSU shops in the midtown area of Manhattan will be displaying window signs extending a welcome to AFL-CIO delegates on behalf of the employees.

Wherever delegates see those signs, they'll know they're going to receive a warm fraternal welcome from the people who serve them—trade unionists all.

